Sudan No. 2 (1927)

REPORT

on the

Finances, Administration and Condition of the Sudan in 1926

[WITH MAP]

Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

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Report on the Finances, Administration and Condition of the Sudan in 1926.

Mr. Henderson to Sir Austen Chamberlain.—(Received August 9.)

Sir, *Ramleh, July 28, 1927.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the annual report for the Sudan for the year 1926.

I have, &c.

NEVILE HENDERSON,
Acting High Commissioner.

Enclosure.

Report on the Sudan for 1926.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Chapter I.—GENERAL	5
Personnel	8
Chapter II.—FRONTIERS—	
Arabia	12
Abyssinia	12
Eritrea	13
French Equatorial Africa	13
Uganda	13
Chapter III. PUBLIC SECURITY	13
Chapter IV.—FINANCE—	
Financial Results for 1926	15
General Review of Financial Situation, 1922–26 ...	18
Budget Estimates for 1927	25
New Projects and Loans	28
Government Commercial Undertakings and Interests ...	30
Chapter V.—ECONOMICS AND TRADE—	
External Trade	36
Balance of Trade	37
Imports	38
Exports	38
Economic Situation	39
Shortage of Grain	40
Insurance of Food Supply	40
Rain-grown Cotton	41
Gum Arabic	42
Effects of Gezira Scheme, Sugar Consumption, &c. ...	42
Purchasing Power of the People	43
Material Progress	43
Grain Production	44
Transport	45
Ginning Factories	45
Markets	45
Condition of the Nomadic Tribes	46
Cotton	47
The Livestock Trade.—Cattle and Sheep	47
Hides and Skins	48

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	Page
Chapter V.—Economics and Trade (*continued*)—	
Camels	49
Gum Arabic	49
Weights and Measures	50
Port Sudan Shipping	50
Fresh Water Supply—Port Sudan	51
Coal Quays, Port Sudan	51
Railway Extension—Kassala-Gedaref	51
Southern Passenger Traffic	52
Sudan Chamber of Commerce	52
Imperial Institute	53
Chapter VI.—Communications—	
Railways and Steamers	53
Port Sudan	55
Steamers	55
Mechanical Transport	56
Extension of the Railway to Gedaref	56
Posts and Telegraphs	57
Telegraphs	59
Wireless Service	60
Telephone Service	60
Chapter VII.—Agriculture and Forests—	
Agriculture	60
Forests	63
Gum	63
Fuel	64
Timber	64
Minor Produce	64
Chapter VIII.—Veterinary	64
Chapter IX.—Justice—	
Criminal Courts	65
Civil Courts	66
Bankruptcies	66
Legislation	67
Administration of Estates	67
Non-Mahometan Marriages	68
Land Registration and Land Settlement	69
Mahometan Law Courts	69
Chapter X.—Sub-Department of Lands	70
Concessions and Projects Committee	70
Chapter XI.—Education	71
Gordon College High School	71
Primary Education	72
Elementary Education	72
Technical Education	72
Scouting	73
Female Education	73
Education in the Southern Sudan	73
Geological Survey	73
The Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories	74
Bacteriological Section	74
Chemical Section	74
Entomological Section	74
Antiquities Service	75
Natural History Museum	75
Missions—	
Church Missionary Society	75
Sudan United Mission	76
American Mission	77
Catholic Mission	77

4107 9/27 F.O.P. [16567]
Wt. —— 1125 12/27 [16749]

	Page
Chapter XII.—Public Health...	77
Epidemic Diseases—	
Relapsing Fever	77
Typhoid...	78
Influenza	78
Rabies	78
Endemic Diseases—	
Bilharzia	78
Yaws	79
Kala-Azar	80
Tuberculosis	80
Dysentery	80
Leprosy	81
General Progress—	
Subordinate Staff	81
Midwifery Training School	82
Nurses' Training School, Omdurman	82
Wadi Halfa Quarantine	82
The School of Medicine	83
Sleeping Sickness	83
Chapter XIII.—Provinces—	
Bahr-el-Ghazal	84
Berber	85
Blue Nile	85
Darfur	86
Dongola	87
Fung	88
Halfa	89
Kassala	89
Khartum	90
Khartum Central Prison	92
Kordofan	92
Mongalla	93
Nuba Mountains	94
Red Sea	95
Port Sudan Central Prison	96
Upper Nile	96
White Nile	97
Chapter XIV.—Game Preservation	98
Chapter XV.—Prisons	98
Chapter XVI.—Stores and Ordnance...	99
Chapter XVII.—Surveys—	
Topographical	99
Cadastral	100
Town	100
Gezira Contour	100
Printing and Mapping Section	100
Land Settlement	101
Provinces	101
Chapter XVIII.—Public Works—	
General	101
Maintenance	101
New Buildings	101
Water Supplies	102
Roads	102
Appendices	104
Map...	End

Glossary.

Ardeb	=	300 lb.
Dukhn	=	Bulrush millet.
Dura	=	Millet.
Feddan	=	1·038 acres.
Fiki	=	"Holy man."
Hafirs	=	Rain catchments. Shallow ponds.
Jebel	=	Hill.
Kantar (cotton)	=	315 rotls = 308·15 lb.
Large kantar (cotton) ...		
Small kantar (cotton) ...	=	100 rotls = 99·05 lb.
Kantar (gum)	=	100 rotls = 99·05 lb.
Lubia	=	Dolichos Lablab.
£E.	=	1,000 millièmes = 100 P.T. = £1 0s. 6¼*d*.
P.T.	=	about 2½*d*.
Millième	=	about ¼*d*.
Mamur	=	Native administrative officer.
Nazir	=	Chief of a nomadic tribe.
Rotl	=	·99 lb.
Seluka	=	Lowlying riverain land cultivated as the river subsides.
Safra	=	Yellow millet.
Sagia	=	Water wheel.
Simsim	=	Sesame.
Shaduf	=	Native apparatus for raising water by means of a balance weight.
Ushur	=	10 per cent. assessment tax on crops.

Chapter I.—General.

In the course of the six months or more that I have spent in the Sudan since my appointment I have become convinced that of the larger issues facing the Government of this country few, if any, are comparable in importance with that of placing upon a more clearly defined basis our policy in regard to native administration.

2. In his annual report for 1925 my predecessor wrote as follows:—

> "The principle of administrative policy towards the native population has been indicated in previous reports. Briefly, it is one of decentralised control; to leave administration as far as possible in the hands of native authorities wherever they exist, and by guidance, advice and correction, where required, to assimilate traditional usage to the requirements of equity and good government. This involves the employment of native agencies under supervision for the simple administrative needs of the country to whatever extent is compatible with a reasonable standard of efficiency."

3. With these aims, which are in conformity with the recommendations of the Milner Commission of 1919–20, I am in full agreement, but the time-factor is of importance, and there are two distinct agencies for the realisation of the object in view. The first of these consists of the tribal chiefs and sheikhs as such—that is, as

native authorities administering their own people; the second consists of executive officials selected for the public service from the ranks of the native population. The lines along which these two agencies function are not, of course, the same. The first is an instrument of devolution, the second of bureaucracy, and it is to the former that it has appeared to me wise to devote more particular attention.

4. As regards the time-factor, the Sudan may be regarded as still in its "golden age," but it cannot long remain so, and it behoves us to take steps while the opportunity remains to lay a foundation upon which a lasting structure may be built from the best material to be found in the country.

5. A tribal organisation, tribal sanctions and old traditions still survive, though their validity varies from province to province, but under the impulse of new ideas and with the rise of a new generation all these alike will tend to crumble away unless they are fortified betimes. Some progress has been made successfully on these lines during the last few years, but I have felt that opportunities of an even more definite progress are slipping away, and that it is essential that experiments of wider scope should be made while the ideal is rendered comparatively easy of realisation on account of the survival of the older personalities.

6. Moreover, the alternative is a costly elaboration of the administrative machinery, such as it is impossible to contemplate with equanimity. By the judicious and progressive application of devolutionary measures in districts where conditions are suitable, and by ensuring that the native agencies which are to be responsible for administering these measures are remunerated on a scale sufficient to give them their requisite measure of status and dignity, it should be possible not only to strengthen the fabric of the native organisation but, while maintaining our supervisory staff at proper strength, gradually to reduce the number of sub-mamurs, clerks, accountants and similar bureaucratic adjuncts in the out-districts.

7. The most obvious line of advance towards the realisation of the object in view has been generally agreed to be that of strengthening the authority wielded by the native chiefs over their people as judges in criminal and civil cases, for the power and status required by the chief as a judge, whether sitting alone or as president of a tribunal of elders, must naturally tend to enhance his authority as administrative and executive head of his tribe or district.

8. With this aim in view, a simple permissive ordinance (the "Powers of Sheikhs Ordinance, 1927") has recently been passed by the Governor-General's Council, and it is hoped that its application to the provinces will become effective as from the beginning of next year.

9. To turn now to the economic sphere. Two years ago the completion of the Sennar Dam (which was officially opened by his Excellency the High Commissioner in January 1926) marked the beginning of a new era in the development of the Sudan.

10. Thanks to favourable conditions and goodwill and good work on the part of all concerned, the first year's results from the cultiva-

tion of cotton on a large scale were highly satisfactory and the benefits predicted by Sir Geoffrey Archer in his report for 1925 have been fully realised. Labour has presented no difficulty and the general well-being of the natives in the thickly populated Gezira area is manifest.

11. A particularly satisfactory feature of the Gezira project is its undoubted popularity with the people. Cultivation and production have been quickened by science, to the vast advantage of the native, but there has been no upheaval of the social system. The people live in their villages, pursue their customary avocations and reap contentment and prosperity from their profitable association with the Government and with the Gezira Syndicate, under whose instruction and supervision the crop is grown and marketed.

12. In a country where the people have had to rely for their sustenance on a capricious rainfall, the guarantee of freedom from the menace of famine is the richest of blessings. Some 50,000 acres of irrigated land was sown with grain, and their harvest made a doubly welcome addition to the food supply in a lean year.

13. It must not, however, be forgotten that the very leanness of the year in other parts of the Sudan has been an important factor in creating favourable labour conditions in the Gezira. Thus a good year for the rest of the Sudan may conceivably mean a less ample supply of labour in the Gezira, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that the habit acquired in the last two years by inhabitants of neighbouring provinces of going to the Gezira to earn money in cotton picking will not be relinquished, however good the conditions elsewhere.

14. For the second year in succession the Northern Sudan suffered from scarcity of rain and grain shortage was general. The import of grain supplies from India and elsewhere, the establishment of a central reserve of grain by Government, and control of prices, secured the safety of the people, but the scarcity reacted somewhat severely on general trade, already suffering from the decline of prices in cotton and gum.

15. Away from the Nile the measure of the Arab's prosperity is his supply of water and grazing, and in respect of these he is never entirely free from anxiety. On the other hand, so implicit is his trust in Providence that he is apt to make somewhat ineffectual efforts on his own behalf to obtain or conserve water which may serve his needs in the dry season. An organised attempt has been made and is being continued with gratifying success in the northern provinces to stimulate native interest in this problem. Wells and "hafirs" (shallow ponds) are being made, not only for the provision of drinking water, but with a view to rendering grazing grounds accessible for longer periods, and funds, tools and supervision are being supplied by the Government wherever circumstances justify the experiment.

16. Despite these years of drought the material progress of the people continues and the standard of living rises steadily.

17. Sir George Schuster has contributed to this report an exhaustive review of financial progress covering the last five years.

I have no hesitation in saying that the present satisfactory position could not have been attained but for the unremitting energy and outstanding ability which have characterised his tenure of office as Financial Secretary to this Government.

18. The Department of Education has lately turned its attention more particularly to the Southern Sudan. In these southern provinces, under conditions that differ widely from those prevailing in the north, missionary bodies of various denominations have laboured for two decades, and their schools have done valuable work. The Government have now inaugurated, in close co-operation with the missions, a definite scheme of educational organisation, and have made considerable grants by way of subsidy. The happy combination of missionary enterprise and experience, on the one hand, and of Government aid, on the other, should afford sure ground and opportunity for the development of these negroid and pagan peoples.

19. Progress in other ways is evident in the south. Many new roads have been cleared or constructed and mechanical transport increases rapidly. The advantage of rapid communication and the definitely humanising effect of permanent road systems are strikingly apparent in regions hitherto regarded as remote. Motor transport throughout the country has advanced considerably and with corresponding benefit to general administration and public security.

20. The pilgrimage has received special consideration during the past year. African pilgrims are drawn chiefly from the British and French colonies in the west, and an undiminished stream of these devotees flows unstemmed through the Sudan. With few exceptions all are poor and earn their living as they go. Reduced railway fares and the simplification of the quarantine service at Suakin, the port of embarkation, have been introduced, and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the present Government in the Hejaz, which has shown its ability to organise this yearly traffic, the general conditions of the pilgrimage will be improved. From the beginning of 1927, I may add, the Sudan Government are taking over the administration of the Suakin quarantine from the International Quarantine Board.

21. I am glad to report that the political situation has remained satisfactory and that public security in the provinces has, generally speaking, been undisturbed.

22. Sir Geoffrey Archer in his report of last year referred to the projected occupation of the unadministered portion of Sudan territory situated in the south-east of Mongalla Province. Preparations went forward quietly throughout the year and the area was successfully entered in January and posts established with a minimum of opposition.

Personnel.

23. The past year is conspicuous for the number of senior officials who have severed their connection with the Sudan. Considerations of health finally compelled my predecessor, Sir

Geoffery Archer, who had succeeded the late Sir Lee Stack so recently as the 4th December, 1924, to relinquish his appointment on the 18th October, 1926.

24. I have also to record the retirement of several leading members of the Political Service :—

Mr. C. E. Lyall joined the Sudan Political Service on the 20th June, 1901, and during his twenty-five years in the country served in the Provinces of Kordofan, White Nile, Red Sea, Halfa and Kassala. He was appointed Governor of Halfa Province on the 1st March, 1914, and subsequently Governor of Kassala Province. On the 15th December, 1921, he was appointed Civil Secretary, which post he held until his retirement on pension in August 1926. Mr. Lyall was one of the earliest members of the Political Service, and performed valuable pioneer work in the early days of the Government. As a provincial official he won the affection of the natives, and his tenure of the office of Civil Secretary was marked by the exercise of a sound common sense and a wide knowledge of the country and its problems.

Mr. K. C. P. Struve joined the Sudan Political Service on the 1st May, 1901, and served successively in the Provinces of Sennar (now Fung), Khartum and Upper Nile until appointed Assistant Civil Secretary in November 1910. In March 1914 he was appointed Governor of the White Nile Province, and, later, Governor of the Upper Nile Province. He relinquished this post on his retirement, after twenty-five years' service, in December 1926. The people of the Upper Nile Province owe much to their late Governor, for the establishment of a benevolent and effective system of administration there was Mr. Struve's achievement, and is a fitting culmination to his long and distinguished career in the country.

Mr. C. P. Browne joined the Sudan Political Service on the 23rd April, 1902, and, in the course of a period of twenty-four years served in Khartum, Blue Nile, the Fung, Upper Nile, Berber and Kassala Provinces. In November 1914 he was appointed Governor, Berber Province. In December 1921 he was transferred as Governor to Kassala Province, where he continued to serve until his retirement in May 1926. Mr. Browne's wide knowledge of native methods of agriculture and his keen appreciation of native interests were of great service to the Government, and by his retirement we have lost a Governor of unusual attainments.

Mr. W. R. G. Bond joined the Sudan Political Service on the 19th September, 1905. During the course of twenty-one years' service he served in the Provinces of Dongola, White Nile, Khartum and the Fung, being appointed Governor of the latter province in September 1921. Mr. Bond was subsequently appointed Governor of Dongola Province and retired as Governor of that province in September 1926. Mr. Bond was *persona grata* with the people of every province in which he served. He was besides responsible for a considerable amount of sound constructive work and leaves a record of patient and valuable service.

25. With the retirement of Sir Wasey Sterry, Chief Justice

R. H. Dun, Judge Peacock and Mr. Hugh Fraser, the year 1926 marks the end of a chapter in the history of the Legal Department. Sir Wasey's services, not only to this Department, but to the whole Administration, as Acting Governor-General during the crisis of 1924, and on other occasions, are too well known to require elaboration here. He joined the Government as the first Chief Judge in 1901, becoming Chief Justice on the formation of the High Court in 1915, and was closely associated with Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter in establishing the legislative and judicial system of the Sudan. On the retirement of Sir Edgar in 1917 he became Legal Secretary, an office in which his keen mind and ripe experience have been of inestimable value to the Department over which he presided and to the Government which he advised. In the same year he was succeeded as Chief Justice by Mr. R. H. Dun, who had been Advocate-General since 1905, and in whom the Government has lost another official of outstanding merit and experience. It is not too much to say that Mr. Dun, by his untiring devotion to public duty and the meticulous honesty with which he investigated and weighed every case and every claim, had long enjoyed the confidence, respect and affection of all classes. In addition to his judicial services, Chief Justice Dun, both before and after his elevation to the Bench, gave great assistance to the Government in drafting many important measures, particularly in relation to criminal jurisdiction and procedure.

Judge H. St. G. Peacock was appointed Advocate-General in 1904, and shortly afterwards was transferred to the Bench, from which he has now retired after more than twenty years' service. He early won distinction by his land settlement in the Gezira; and for the last thirteen years had presided over the High Court in Khartum, where he justly enjoyed a reputation for courtesy, patience and conscientious thoroughness.

As Director of the Sub-Department of Lands, Mr. Hugh Fraser occupied a special position and rendered very valuable services in connection with the schemes of development undertaken by the Government in the Gezira, Kassala and elsewhere. He was instrumental in negotiating and drafting many important agreements and concessions, and in 1913 was made a member of Council.

26. The Railways and Steamers Department have also lost the services of two valuable senior officials :—

Major P. C. Lord was appointed to the Engineering Department of the Railways as a bimbashi seconded from the Egyptian army on the 2nd April, 1901. From the 5th May to the 16th September, 1915, he served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and from the 2nd May, 1918, to the 19th March, 1919, with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. He was made chief engineer on the 1st April, 1919, and held the appointment until his retirement on the 12th May, 1926, after completing twenty-five years' service. The state of efficiency attained in the Engineering Department, both as regards new construction work and maintenance, is largely due to the skill and tact displayed by Major Lord during his long and valuable period of service.

Major E. O. A. Newcombe served with the Egyptian army in the Sudan from 1896 to 1898 and retired on the outbreak of the South African War. He returned to the Sudan and joined the Railways Department as a bimbashi, seconded from the Egyptian army on the 2nd March, 1905, and was employed as engineer in charge of the construction of the branch railway from Abu Hamed to Kareima. In October 1906 he was made traffic manager and held this appointment for nearly nineteen years. In 1925 he relinquished this post in order to carry out special duties in connection with a traffic survey of the southern provinces. He retired on the 6th November, 1926, after over twenty-one years of very valuable service.

27. Major C. H. Armbruster, Director of Customs, retired to pension in 1926. He originally joined the Sudan Government as a member of the Political Service in 1901, and in 1906 accompanied, as political officer, an expedition into Abyssinia against Haila Maryam. Major Armbruster was subsequently sent by the Sudan Government on political missions to Abyssinia in 1907, 1908 and 1909, and accompanied Sir Reginald Wingate on his mission to Somaliland as intelligence officer. An Amharic scholar of eminence, he became examiner in that language for the Civil Service Commissioners in 1910–11, and assumed the office of His Majesty's consul for North-West Abyssinia in 1912. After a period of war service in the Intelligence Corps in Egypt, Major Armbruster was appointed Director of Customs in 1919, at a time when the revenue personnel and efficiency of the Department were suffering from the inevitable effect of a five years' period of war conditions. He left behind him a Department restaffed and reinvigorated for its purpose of efficient collection of a revenue which during the period of his administration had doubled as the result of the steady expansion of the external trade of the country.

28. In the Department of Education I record with regret the retirement of Mr. J. W. Crowfoot. Mr. Crowfoot succeeded Sir James Currie, the first director of the Department, in August 1914, having been previously assistant director from August 1903 to May 1908 and having in the interval widened his experience by service under the Egyptian Ministry of Education. The cause of education in the Sudan has owed much to Mr. Crowfoot's careful and sympathetic guidance during his tenure of office as director. The aspects of educational work to which he devoted particular attention were the extension of elementary vernacular education in the Arabic-speaking North and Central Sudan, the policy of subsidising and improving indigenous native schools, the extension of female education and, more recently, the elucidation of the lines of policy on which the Government's share in the erection of an educational fabric in the Southern Sudan should be based. Mr. Crowfoot's contribution to the study of archæology in the Sudan was especially valuable. His own investigations and his wise guidance of the activities of others have opened up a wide and interesting field for students of antiquity, while his researches, together with Mrs. Crowfoot, into the customs and thought of the present-day native have proved of great practical value.

29. Major (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) C. R. K. Bacon, who retired from the Sudan Defence Force in March 1926, was appointed to the Egyptian army in 1912. He has throughout his fifteen years' service in this country been identified with the Upper Nile Province, where in addition to actual military duties he administered a large and warlike tribe with sympathy and with entire success.

Chapter II.—Frontiers.

Arabia: (a) *The Hejaz.*

30. On the 21st October, 1926, Sultan Abdel Aziz Abdel Rahman-el-bin-Saud was officially recognised as King of the Hejaz by His Majesty's Government. Since then he has devoted himself with considerable energy and success to the task of consolidating his rule in the Hejaz and Nejd, and public security has been well maintained, with the result that pilgrims have enjoyed an immunity from interference hitherto unknown. During the pilgrimage season a Moslem conference, attended by delegates representing various organisations in the different countries of the Moslem world, assembled at Mecca for the discussion of matters relating to the Holy Places and the comfort and well-being of pilgrims.

31. The Hejaz Government has agreed to assist the Sudan Government in its efforts to regulate the African pilgrim traffic, and with this end in view has prohibited disembarkation of pilgrims at all places other than Jeddah.

(b.) *Asir and Yemen.*

32. Saiyid Ali-el-Idrisi, the ruler of the Asir, was early in the year deposed by his uncle, Saiyid-el-Hasan. The new ruler subsequently concluded a treaty with Ibn Saud, in which he recognised the suzerainty of the King of the Hejaz over the Idrisi territories whilst retaining a measure of autonomy in internal affairs.

33. The establishment of a Hejazi Protectorate over Asir has accentuated the difference between Ibn Saud and the Imam Yahya, who lays claim to Asir as part of his ancestral dominions. There have been frequent rumours of impending hostilities followed by inconclusive accounts of peaceful negotiations.

34. The Imam's capital was visited by an Italian delegation, headed by Signor Gasparini, Governor of Eritrea, and a treaty between Italy and the Imam was negotiated. Italy recognises the independence of the Imam's territories and receives trade facilities and preference with regard to concessions for mines, railways, &c.

Abyssinia.

35. The activities of Abyssinian poachers, referred to in last year's report, continued, especially in the earlier part of the year, and on several occasions shots were exchanged between armed bands and the police. In April His Majesty's consul at Dangila met Negadras Dasta, an Abyssinian official sent by Ras Taffari to enquire into these incidents. The Negadras agreed to the consul's proposal that Fitaurari Zallaka, the Abyssinian Governor at Balaya, should

be recalled, as he was either unwilling or unable to prevent these occurrences, and in August it was reported that Ras Taffari had consented to his dismissal.

36. A threatened attack on frontier villages west of the Setit River by Abyssinian brigands who had revolted against Ras Ayalewu failed to materialise, and a complaint to the effect that a British officer had "dried up" the waters of a frontier river near Gallabat was investigated by a British and an Abyssinian official and proved to be without foundation.

37. The death occurred in December of Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis, K.C.M.G., for many years Minister for War and Governor of the Southern Provinces. He was one of the "Elders of Menelik," and a principal member of the Central Government. His death has been the cause of numerous changes in the distribution of offices in the Central Government and in provincial governorships.

38. Mr. Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., His Majesty's consul for South-West Abyssinia, has been promoted to be Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Falkland Islands. His wide knowledge of Abyssinia, and his complete understanding of the frontier problems, have been of the greatest value to the Sudan Government.

Eritrea.

39. Cordial relations were maintained with the Eritrean authorities. The dam on the Gash River at Tesenei was completed in time for the flood and about 3,000 feddans were put under cultivation.

French Equatorial Africa.

40. The system of discussing the various questions arising in connection with the administration of the Darfur–Wadai border at personal meetings between the local French authorities and officials of Darfur Province was continued successfully, and the co-operation of the French Commandant of Fada has been of great help in recovering camels raided in Dongola Province by Gor'an marauders from French territory.

Uganda.

41. Under a proclamation dated the 14th November, 1926, a small strip of territory situated in the vicinity of the Tereteinia Mountains, which hitherto formed part of the Uganda Protectorate, was formally included within the boundaries of the Sudan. The object of this frontier adjustment, reached as a result of a conference held at Kitgum in April 1924 between representatives of the Governments of Uganda and the Sudan, was to facilitate the control of sleeping sickness and the administration of the local tribes.

Chapter III.—Public Security.

42. Disturbances of the peace recorded during the past year have been of purely local importance and public security generally has been satisfactory.

43. The operations undertaken against the Nuba of Jebel Gulud, to which reference was made in the last report, were brought to a completely satisfactory conclusion. All the men responsible for the murder of the Mek were either killed or captured and no further recurrence of trouble in this area is anticipated.

44. A succession of raids by western desert tribesmen from French territory is reported from Dongola. Their most serious exploit occurred in June, when a caravan proceeding to Egypt was attacked near Bir Natrun. Four men were killed and 100 camels stolen. A light car and aeroplane reconnaissance was despatched with a view to studying the country and investigating the possibilities of undertaking counter-measures. Since this reconnaissance no further raids have been reported.

45. Difficulties which arose between the Kababish and Gumuiya tribes over water and grazing rights at Um Inderaba, near Omdurman, resulted in an affray involving several casualties. The matter has been fully investigated and the question settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

46. Following on representations made by Kenya and Uganda regarding raids into their territory by the Taposa tribe, preparations were made in the autumn for the occupation of this tribe's territory, and a force consisting of two companies of the Equatorial Corps advanced into it towards the end of December. The operation was carried out peacefully and, though some trouble was subsequently experienced, signs are not lacking that the presence of a Government post in this previously unadministered area will have the effect of checking lawlessness and the illicit trade in arms and ammunition hitherto carried on in that region by outlaws of Abyssinian and Swahili origin.

Police.

47. Both mounted and dismounted police continue to carry out their duties in a praiseworthy manner. A police training-school was opened at the beginning of the year, and the following courses of instruction were successfully carried out :—

(*a.*) An advanced course, of seven months' duration, for selected police officers and n.c.o.'s;

(*b.*) An elementary course, of three and a half months, for n.c.o.'s and men; and

(*c.*) Certain specialist courses in drill and clerical and finger-print work.

48. The standard of efficiency aimed at is high, but examinations and tests at the conclusion of these courses have proved that there is much promising material in all ranks. The introduction of a pensions scheme has enabled a number of the elder men of the police force to be retired without hardship, and the promotion of younger men has appreciably raised the standard of efficiency in the force.

49. A scheme for standardising the clothing and equipment of the police has been adopted and will, it is hoped, result in a considerable economy. The entire police forces of two provinces are now armed with magazine rifles, in place of the old Lee-Enfield carbine, and three further provinces will be similarly rearmed during the next two years. The new weapon is popular and adds considerably to efficiency.

Chapter IV.—Finance.

Introduction.

Financial Results for 1926.

50. The financial results for 1926 are chiefly notable for the inclusion for the first time of the revenue and expenditure for the Gezira project, the returns from which were remarkably good and greatly exceeded the budget estimate, which was based on normal expectations. The revenue, direct and indirect, derived from this project, combined with an exceptionally large return from the gum trade, accounts for the comparatively favourable results for 1926, which otherwise were affected more adversely than was expected by the bad rains all over the country and by the poor floods at Tokar and Kassala.

51. According to the figures available (the accounts for the year are not finally audited) the results for 1926 are as follows :—

	£E.
Revenue	5,857,988
Expenditure	5,482,388
Surplus... ...	375,600

As pointed out in a succeeding paragraph, substantial demands for non-recurrent expenditure on various necessary works will absorb more than the amount of the surplus.

52. Great changes have taken place in the basis of revenue and expenditure for the Sudan in the last two years. These are shown clearly in the table given in Appendix (I) and are explained in subsequent paragraphs of this chapter.

Revenue, 1926.

53. The results for 1926 are :—

	£E.
Budget estimate	5,210,000
Actual receipts	5,857,988
Surplus over budget estimate	647,988

This surplus over budget estimate is accounted for as follows :—

	£E.	£E.
Increases—		
Gezira scheme	186,312	
Railway receipts	265,299	
Gum, sugar and customs ...	235,572	
Miscellaneous	54,919	
		742,102
Decreases—		
Ushur, land tax and animal tax	55,955	
Tokar cotton revenue	21,141	
Miscellaneous	17,018	
		94,114
Net surplus		647,988

54. The following figures show how the 1926 revenue compares with the preceding year :—

	1925. £E.	1926. £E.
Normal revenue (excluding railways)	2,394,733	2,288,777
Railways and steamers ...	1,909,650	2,115,999
Egyptian contribution	562,500	750,000
Gezira revenue	—	703,212
Total revenue...	4,866,883	5,857,988

It will be seen that if the receipts from the Gezira project and the Egyptian subvention are omitted, the 1926 revenue exceeded that of 1925 by £E. 100,393; the main differences being increases of £E. 206,349 in railway receipts and of about £E. 57,000 on gum and sugar, offset by a loss of £E. 187,185 in Ushur and other province taxes (other than gum). Apart from these main differences there were increases on Customs, Posts and Telegraphs, &c., and a reduction in the receipts of the Public Works Department (counterbalanced by a corresponding reduction in expenditure), consequent upon the transfer of certain public utility services in Khartum to the Sudan Light and Power Company (Limited).

55. The fall in receipts from Ushur and other agricultural taxes indicated in the above figures was the inevitable result of the bad rains in 1925 and poor floods at Kassala and Tokar. While this proved more serious than was anticipated, it was more than compensated for by unexpectedly good returns from the Gezira project, gum royalties, railway receipts, sugar and customs revenue, the favourable return on the last three items being almost entirely attributable to the effects, direct and indirect, of the Gezira project.

56. The financial position of the Sudan must always rest on a somewhat uncertain basis, in that its main sources of revenue depend upon climatic conditions, but the results of 1926 suggest the existence of something in the nature of a compensatory principle, in that seasons of bad rains are likely to be accompanied by conditions favourable to the collection of gum, and to the yield of the irrigated crops in the Gezira.

57. Sugar sales show an increase over 1925, both in the quantity sold and the total purchase-money paid, thus again justifying the substantial reduction in the Government prices early in 1926.

58. The results for the railways, the Gezira project and other special projects are dealt with in greater detail below.

Expenditure 1926.

59. The expenditure for 1926 will, according to the figures as at present known, work out as follows :—

	£E.
Budget estimate	5,210,000
Amount actually to be charged to expenditure	5,482,388
Excess	272,388

60. The excess expenditure, as shown above, is accounted for by certain special factors. First, as in 1925, a sum for which no provision was made in the budget was, in order to conform with good commercial practice, allocated from the excess railway receipts to the special fund for capital improvements, to which reference was made in last year's report. The sum thus set aside from 1926 revenue is £E. 217,950, and expenditure up to the full amount allocated has already been approved. Secondly, in view of the unexpectedly good results from the Gezira project, it was decided to charge against the budget the full year's interest payable in 1926 on the Gezira loans instead of 70 per cent. only thereof. When the budget was framed it was thought proper to provide only this reduced sum, as the full area provided for under the scheme was not in cultivation in 1926. This additional charge amounts to £E. 156,005. In addition, £E. 50,000 has been transferred from revenue to the special Gezira Reserve Fund, and a sum of £E. 40,000 to a reserve fund against which can be written off anticipated losses on the Government's stock of dura (required for famine relief measures and stabilisation of prices).

61. The aggregate result of these additional allocations is an excess of £E. 465,057. On the other side, however, there is an economy of £E. 192,669, on the rest of the budget expenditure. The result may be shown in tabular form as follows :—

Additions—	£E.
Full interest on Gezira loans	156,005
Appropriation from railway revenue to Capital Improvements Fund	217,950
Appropriation from general revenue to—	
(*a.*) Gezira reserve for interest and commitments	50,000
(*b.*) Dura reserve	40,000
	463,955
Less saving on other items	192,669
Net excess	271,286

The saving of £E. 192,669 on other items is made up as follows :—

	£E.
Sudan Defence Force	73,911
Irrigation Department	13,196
Railways	37,034
Rest (net)	68,528
	192,669

62. The item "rest" includes the provision of £E. 42,000 for "supplementary credits" and the balance of the provision of £E. 59,000 for "contingencies," which items are really of the nature of a hidden "surplus" to meet expenditure unforeseen when the budget was prepared. The net saving of £E. 73,911 on the military budget is made up of a gross saving of over £E.115,000 representing economies on nearly every item, less the following items of expenditure for which no provision has been made :—

(*a.*) £E. 15,000 on account of arrears, related to the year 1925, of pension contributions for British officers; and

(*b.*) £E. 26,000 for miscellaneous items, of which the most important was the cost of the patrol in the Nuba Mountains. The saving in the Irrigation Department was due partly to a real economy on the maintenance programme and partly to a delay in the execution of certain works, the cost of which will fall on the 1927 budget. This is referred to again in the special note on the Gezira project.

Reserve Fund.

63. The net surplus of £E. 375,600 on the 1926 budget referred to above will, as usual, be passed to the Reserve Fund. After allowing for allocation for non-recurrent expenditure approved in 1926, the unallocated balance at the end of 1926 amounted to £E. 533,136, which, together with the 1926 surplus and other minor receipts, including interest at 4 per cent. on the balance in the fund, gives a total balance unallocated at the 1st January, 1927, of £E. 1,012,627. Against this it has been necessary to approve normal non-recurrent expenditure during 1927 for development and other purposes aggregating £E. 416,472. This leaves a balance of £E. 596,155. Against this balance further reservations amounting to £E. 109,174 have been made as part of the arrangements for the financing of the proposed further extension of the Gezira Irrigation Scheme (see below), so that the final unallocated balance may be put at £E. 486,981. Details of votes already approved, together with a full statement of the Reserve Fund position, are shown in Appendix (II).

General Review of Financial Position, 1922–26.

64. Having considered in the preceding paragraphs the results for 1926, it may be of interest before dealing with the budget

estimates for 1927, to give a general review of the financial situation as it has developed over the past few years and to trace the course of administrative expenditure in relation to the work which the Government has to do and to the country's taxable capacity. For this purpose a mere presentation of the total figures of Government receipts and expenditure is not sufficient, and it is necessary in particular to make a clear distinction between the Government's activities of a commercial nature—in the case of which increased expenditure probably means growing business and improved economic results—and the services of civil administration and defence, expenditure on which must normally be balanced by taxation.

65. All the important points in the financial position are clearly brought out in Table 1 of Appendix (I), in which, for the reason explained above, a definite distinction is made on the one hand between normal revenue and receipts form commercial undertakings —such as the railways and the Gezira project—and on the other between normal administrative expenditure and the working costs of the above-mentioned undertakings. It is necessary, however, to point out that the figures given under the headings of Receipts other than Railways, and Normal Administrative Expenditure include results of certain commercial undertakings. In future it is hoped to be able to make an accurate separation of the figures of expenditure and revenue for all commercial undertakings, but the necessary changes in the accounts have not yet been made. The figures as they stand do, however, in fact give a fairly accurate picture of the growth of expenditure on normal administrative services, because while on the one hand there has in recent years been a considerable growth in commercial undertakings (*e.g.*, cotton trading in the southern provinces, ginning factories, Port Sudan water supply, &c.) this has been to some extent balanced by the transfer of the whole of the public utility services in Khartum and Omdurman (electricity, water, &c.) from the Public Works Department to the recently formed Sudan Light and Power Company. The main features recorded in Table 1, Appendix (I), are further explained in the following paragraphs.

Total Receipts and Expenditure.

66. The striking change in the country's financial position since 1922 is illustrated by the following figures :—

Year.	Revenue. £E.	Recurrent Expenditure. £E.	Surplus transferred to General Reserve Fund for special Expenditure. £E.
1922	3,498,595	3,496,999	1,596
1923	3,766,133	3,392,470	373,663
1924	4,298,856	3,453,273	845,583
1925	4,866,883	4,375,670	491,213
1926	5,857,988	5,482,388	375,600

The growth in the last two years is of course mainly due to development of a special nature—the inclusion since 1926 of the Gezira project, and the taking over in 1925 of military expenditure. The course of these changes is fully analysed in the table given in Appendix (I).

Normal Revenue.

67. Apart from these special features, that is to say, leaving out of account Gezira revenue and the Egyptian Contribution, the general development of normal revenue may be seen from the following figures :—

Year.	General Revenue. £E.	Railway Revenue. £E.	Total. £E.
1922	1,874,076	1,624,519	3,498,595
1923	2,050,606	1,715,527	3,766,133
1924	2,435,129	1,863,727	4,298,856
1925	2,394,733	1,909,650	4,304,383
1926	2,288,777	2,115,999	4,404,776

It will be seen that the total normal revenue given above, though showing a consistent slight increase, has remained fairly stationary since 1924.

68. On the whole, the result is more satisfactory than the figures themselves appear to indicate. The 1925 figures (especially railway receipts) might have been expected to show a substantial reduction owing to the termination of construction work on the Sennar Dam, but it appears that the normal growth of the country's activities more than offset this reduction. Again in 1926 results were very unfavourably affected by bad rains and other special climatic conditions; but the combined result nevertheless shows an improvement, due in this case mainly to heavy railway earnings from carrying Gezira cotton, and partly also to other indirect effects of this scheme.

Normal Administrative Expenditure.

69. Expenditure under this heading, which has been explained above, is shown in the following table, and is compared with normal revenue from sources other than the railways :—

Year.	Normal Administrative Expenditure. £E.	Normal General Revenue. £E.	Balance. £E.
1922	2,193,115	1,874,076	−319,039
1923	2,037,527	2,050,606	+ 13,079
1924	2,017,130	2,435,129	+417,999
1925	2,021,176	2,394,733	+373,557
1926	2,169,449	2,288,777	+119,328

It will be seen from the above that, after an initial drop in expenditure as a result of special efforts towards economy made at the beginning of 1923, it was found that the various services had been

cut down to the lowest possible basis, and that in order to cope with the growing business of Government some expansion was absolutely necessary. This has been commented on in previous reports. Apart from such necessary expansion in normal administrative staff, there has been an increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department. Medical and Educational Departments; in the former with the direct object of improving economic results, and in the two latter in order to keep pace with the minimum standard which the accepted policy of the Government demands. In neither case has the growth been excessive, and as regards education, it is to be noted that the supply of natives trained at the Gordon College still falls far short of the demand for employees in the Government services alone. The process of necessary expansion is not yet finished, and the matter is further dealt with below in connection with the budget estimates for 1927.

70. In considering the figures for expenditure given above, it must be remembered that in certain respects considerable increases have been necessary which do not indicate any increase in staff. This applies particularly to the payments in respect of pensions. The annual payments on this account did not, in fact, prior to 1923, substantially exceed the contributions towards pension paid by serving officials, which contributions were, until that year, treated as revenue. Taking the whole of the Government services (including railways), the net cost of pensions and gratuities paid in 1922 was, in fact, only £E. 19,285, whereas in 1926 it was £E. 147,794. On the other hand, it must be noted that the economy shown in 1923 was largely due to the final elimination during that year of the temporary war bonus on salaries, a reduction which was, to some extent, but only partially, offset by the simultaneous increase in the assisted passage allowance.

71. Setting these factors against one another, it is still a matter for considerable satisfaction that, in spite of the great increase in Government business, the total cost of the normal administration of the country was actually lower in 1926 than it was in 1922.

Railways and Steamers Department.

72. The results for this Department are fully dealt with below in the special chapter on Commercial Undertakings. The course of financial results and policy may also be traced clearly from the figures given in Table 1 of Appendix (I). For convenient reference, the following figures of the net surpluses transferred to the Central Government may here be given :—

Year.	£E.
1922	323,630
1923	437,745
1924	635,944
1925	387,829
1926	451,405

It is important to remember that the figures for 1925 and 1926 have been arrived at *after* deduction of substantial allocations for

capital improvements, which prior to that year were provided for by voting money (which had figured as part of the surplus) back to the railways from the General Reserve Fund of the Government.

Special Non-recurrent Expenditure.

73. As has been pointed out in previous reports, the form in which the Sudan expenditure is authorised, distinguishing as it does recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure, is liable to lead to misunderstanding, for, although individual items may properly be described as non-recurrent, every year a considerable sum must be spent on non-recurrent items. This has to be met by votes from the General Reserve Fund, which fund is fed by transferring the "surplus" realised of budgetary revenue over expenditure. The amounts shown as "surpluses" are in fact required in this way to meet normal and unavoidable services which can only properly be financed in this way. For, while important development schemes can legitimately be financed from loans, the country's borrowing powers must not be overtaxed, and every effort must be made at the present stage to provide for normal development out of annual revenue, and to resist the temptation of saddling future generations with heavy charges for interest and repayment of debt.

74. The true relation of revenue to expenditure cannot therefore be seen without taking into account the provision made each year for votes from the General Reserve Fund. The result is shown in the following table :—

Item.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Surplus of revenue over expenditure transferred to General Reserve Fund ...	373,663	845,583	491,213	375,600
Various receipts credited direct to General Reserve Fund ...	66,291	23,034	84,912	87,006
Total addition to General Reserve Fund ...	439,954	868,617	576,125	462,606
Allotments from General Reserve Fund for non-recurring expenditure for the succeeding year (*less* amounts since cancelled)...	229,478	511,274	688,469	525,646
Net decrease or increase in unallotted balances of General Reserve Fund ...	+ 210,476	+ 357,343	− 112,344	− 63,040

75. The above figures indicate that the country has had full need of the budgetary surplus realised during the recent years, but

on further examination they are not unsatisfactory. The expenditure from Reserve Fund has of necessity been heavy because very large arrears in such essential matters as housing for officials in the provinces, hospitals, telegraphs and communications had to be undertaken. But at the same time it has included many projects which should prove remunerative in the future, either directly or indirectly, and the full benefit of which has not yet been felt. The unallotted balance on the General Reserve Fund of £E. 486,981 which remains after provision for 1927 requirements, though not excessive, should still be sufficient to meet normal needs; but it is to be noted in this connection that if the rains of 1927 are again a failure the Government may have to face very heavy commitments in the way of grain purchase and famine relief measures.

Taxation and other Sources of Revenue.

76. Concurrently with the increase in receipts recorded above, it is satisfactory to note that it has been possible to effect at least a moderate reduction in taxation. Generally speaking, it may be said that all changes during the last few years have been in a downward direction. Notably, as regards sugar, the Government price has been reduced by $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. since the beginning of 1923.

The following minor changes have been introduced during 1926 :—

(*a.*) The abolition, as from the 1st April, 1926, of veterinary inspection fees on hides and skins.

(*b.*) Reduction in the rates of animal tax in the Blue Nile and White Nile Provinces; and, in the Butana district of the Kassala Province, the conversion of this tax into tribute.

(*c.*) The introduction of a new Traders Tax Ordinance, to take effect from the 1st January, 1927, substituting a graduated tax on business profits for a flat rate and thereby reducing the burden on small traders, with a corresponding increase in the case of larger profits.

(*d.*) The transfer in the case of certain provinces of services costing in all about £E. 51,000 annually from the Local Provincial Service Budgets to the Central Government Budget. This is referred to below in connection with the budget estimates for 1927.

77. The table printed below gives an analysis of the main sources of "normal revenue." The results indicate a steady tendency towards a reduction of the relative burden of direct taxes on natives, with a corresponding increase in revenue from productive undertakings and from "optional" taxes, such as those classified as "taxes on consumption." In future years this table will have to be revised in order to include the results of the Gezira project, which will become of steadily increasing importance. For the present, it gives a sufficiently accurate picture, as the special new items which are omitted roughly balance each other.

NORMAL Revenue (*i.e.* excluding Receipts from Gezira Project and Egyptian Contribution).

(Figures in parentheses denote percentage.)

——	1903.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Direct taxes on natives	£E. 114,359 (24·6)	£E. 295,546 (18·8)	£E. 600,874 (14·7)	£E. 458,342 (13·1)	£E. 451,259 (12·0)	£E. 469,939 (10·9)	£L. 499,091 (11·6)	£E. 417,189 (9·5)
Royalties snd receipts from irrigation projects, &c. (other than Gezira project)	34,211 (7·3)	109,147 (6·9)	120,712 (2·9)	136,336 (3·8)	239,508 (6·4)	299,817 (7·0)	309,584 (7·2)	246,990 (5·5)
Consumption duties (Customs and sugar monopoly)	9,042 (1·9)	186,837 (11·9)	714,219 (17·5)	652,508 (18·6)	762,213 (20·2)	945,356 (22·0)	921·129 (21·4)	956,412 (21·7)
Gross revenue from Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, and other commercial undertakings	238,335 (51·4)	818,829 (52·1)	2,295,704 (56·4)	1,925,251 (55·0)	2,008,772 (53·4)	2,204,869 (51·3)	2,215,309 (51·5)	2,418,199 (54 9)
Miscellaneous taxes on commercial transactions, court fees, &c.	66,658 (14·4)	157,993 (10·0)	337,726 (8·3)	326,158 (9·3)	304,381 (8·0)	378,875 (8·8)	359,270 (8·3)	365,987 (8·4)
Total	462,605	1,568,352	4,069,235	3,498,595	3,776,133	4,298,856	4,304,383	4,404,777

General Conclusions.

78. The position as disclosed in the tabulated results given in Appendix (I), and as further explained in the preceding paragraphs, may be summed up as follows :—

In the case both of the railways and of the Government's normal administrative expenditure and corresponding revenue, the general level of receipts has, since 1922, risen more than the general level of recurrent expenditure. The surplus margin thus created has in both cases been utilised in the same way, that is to say, it has partly been used to establish a sounder basis of finance in the form of including in current expenditure proper provision for renewals and reserves of various kinds, and partly "put back into the business" in the form of capital improvements and special expenditure. The result has been that arrears in many directions have been overtaken and adequate provision made for the future, particularly in the Railway Renewals Fund, and in the building up of a special reserve fund against the possibility of losses in the early years of working the Gezira project. The future must depend very largely on the working of that project. If it can be stabilised on a basis which provides enough direct revenue to balance the current cost of irrigation, and the services of the Gezira loans, then the Government will have the benefit of the indirect revenue which it creates, while the accumulated reserves can be invested in extensions. In this manner the way should be opened for the further steps which are necessary to arrive at a fundamentally sound position. First among these should come a reduction in the general level of taxation.

Budget Estimates for 1927.

79. The actual figures are summarised as follows :—

	Budget Estimate. £E. 1926.	Final Result. £E. 1926.	Budget Estimate. £E. 1927.
Revenue ...	5,210,000	5,857,988	5,660,000
Expenditure ...	5,210,000	5,482,388	5,660,000

These figures require special explanation, particularly as regards expenditure.

Revenue.

80. The estimated revenue for 1927 is put at £E. 5,660,000, made up as follows :—

	£E.	1926 actual. £E.
Normal revenue	2,175,900	2,288,777
Railway receipts	2,036,000	2,115,999
Gezira receipts	698,100	703,212
Egyptian contribution ...	750,000	750,000
	5,660,000	5,857,988

Thus the total revenue estimated for is less by £E. 197,988 than the actual receipts for 1926. Although the prospects of the Gezira crop are good and a larger area (100,000 feddans, instead of 80,000 feddans) will be under cotton, a smaller return than that actually obtained in 1926 is budgeted for in consequence of the fall in prices and the allowance for a normal yield only. This position is dealt with in greater detail in paragraphs 92–105. In anticipating a reduction in normal revenue and railway receipts, allowance has been made for the cumulative effect of two seasons of bad rains. This factor, combined with much lower prices for gum and cotton, especially the American cotton grown in the rain areas, has seriously reduced purchasing power throughout the country, with a consequent depressing effect on trade and the general tax revenues. In fact, this year again it is to the Gezira project that the country must look for protection against a financial condition which otherwise might result in a very heavy deficit.

Expenditure.

81. As shown above, the total estimate of expenditure for 1927 at £E. 5,660,000 shows an increase of £E. 177,612 over the actual expenditure of 1926, but as the latter included various items, such as the allocation to Railway Capital Improvements Fund and Gezira and Dura Reserves, which are not provided for in the 1927 estimates, this comparison is somewhat misleading. The total increase on a comparison of the budget estimates for each year stands at the much higher figure of £E. 450,000, and it is from an analysis of this increase that the position can best be understood. The estimates under various headings for the two years compare as follows :—

	Budget 1927. £E.	Budget 1926. £E.	Increase or Decrease. £E.
Province expenditure ...	853,681	802,051	+ 51,630
Departments	1,203,195	1,090,685	+112,510
Pensions	120,000	100,000	+ 20,000
Passage allowance and transport facilities	70,107	85,873	– 15,766
"Supplementary Credits," "Contingencies" and "Miscellaneous" ...	152,293	159,368	– 7,075
Total "Normal Administration" Services ...	2,399,276	2,237,977	+161,299
Railways	1,697,939	1,533,133	+164,806
Irrigation Department ...	758,925	575,014	+183,911
Military expenditure ...	803,860	863,876	– 60,016
	5,660,000	5,210,000	+450,000

82. Before dealing with the net increase of £E. 161,299 in the estimates for expenditure on "Normal Administrative Services" the other main headings may briefly be explained :—

Railways.—The increase is accounted for by larger provision for renewals on the Kassala line and new works at Port Sudan, and for general increased running expenditure due to the expanding services.

Irrigation.—The increase is principally due to the inclusion of the full provision for the service of the Gezira loans. As has previously been explained, only 70 per cent. of the full amount was provided for in the 1926 estimates, although it was ultimately found possible to charge the full outgoings under this head to current expenditure for 1926.

Sudan Defence Force.—The original programme for the organisation of this Force is being carried out with only slight modifications.

Normal Administrative Services.—The actual growth in the normal administrative machinery of the country is not as large as appears indicated by the increase in the expenditure estimates as shown above. About £E. 52,000 is accounted for by changes recently effected in the relations between the Central Government and the local provincial services. This represents merely transferred expenditure, the Central Government having taken over certain services (chiefly educational and sanitary), together with corresponding services of revenue from the municipal authorities. It is hoped that this change will result in considerable economies of clerical staff, though the full effect will not be felt during 1927. Further, about £E. 18,500 represents expenditure on new commercial undertakings (Port Sudan water supply, cotton ginneries, &c.), which should produce at least an equivalent revenue. Another £E. 20,000 is accounted for by the unavoidable increase in pension payments, while £E. 11,000 represents the net automatic increase in salaries due to the operation of the rules governing normal increases of pay. If all these items (totalling £E. 101,500) are deducted, the net avoidable increase in the cost of the normal administrative services is reduced to about £E. 59,000. Of this, the principal items of increase are in the Medical and Education Departments. The total increase shown in the estimates for the Education Department is £E. 33,624, but of this £E. 19,046 represents expenditure transferred, as part of the programme explained above, from the local provincial budgets, leaving a net real increase of £E. 14,578. Of the increase in the Medical Department, the greater part is due to general expansion of the service, but special reference should be made to the intensive campaign against bilharzia. The increase appearing in the budget is £E. 24.797, but the true increase is £E. 38,791. The difference is to be met chiefly by a subvention from the Sir Lee Stack Indemnity Fund towards the cost of the bilharzia and other special work. Other increases are distributed fairly evenly on small items throughout the various provinces and departments. A considerable amount is accounted for by the extra cost of allowances due to the high price of grain.

Future Prospects.

83. While the increases recorded above are within the measure of the country's capacity, provided that developments proceed normally, any further expansion must be jealously scrutinised, until it is possible to form a closer estimate of what the standard average return from the Gezira project is likely to be. It would be a mistake to rely on a continuance of the very high yields achieved in 1925–26, and promised for the 1926–27 crop. In the meanwhile, as has been noted above, the general condition of the country is suffering from the failure of the rains in two successive seasons; and, looking to the immediate future, if the rains should fail again this year, the Government may find themselves faced not only with a great reduction in revenue, but also with the need for costly relief measures.

New Projects and Loans.

Extension of Gezira Irrigation Project.

84. A new agreement was concluded during 1926 with the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. The following principal changes are involved :—

(i.) The area of the concession is substantially increased.

(ii.) The period of the concession is extended from 1939 to 1950, but with a right on the Government's side to terminate it either in 1939 or 1944 on payment of full compensation for loss of prospective profits by the syndicate.

(iii.) On completion of the full additional area, the Government's share will be increased from 35 per cent. of the net proceeds to 40 per cent., and the syndicate's reduced from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent.

The full area is expected to be in cultivation in 1930. For 1926–27 the Government's share is increased to $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and thereafter by gradual steps until the full area is completed.

(iv.) The syndicate is to repay the Government the sum of £400,000 sterling advanced to it under the original agreement.

This extension of area will involve the Government in capital expenditure estimated at about £E. 1,700,000, which is to be financed partly from the £400,000 sterling repaid as above, partly from the balance remaining over from the original Gezira Loan Funds, partly (to the extent of British-made materials employed) from the Gedaref Railway and Development Company Loan (see below) and partly from the Government's own reserves. It is noted that, whereas the total capital expenditure on completing the original 300,000 feddans is estimated at about £11,500,000 sterling, or nearly £39 per feddan, the development of the new area will only involve an additional expenditure of about £10 per feddan. The difference is, of course, mainly accounted for by the fact that the original expenditure included the cost of the dam as well as the

canalisation. It is clear that, on this basis, an extension must greatly improve the Government's position—especially as it is combined with an increase in its percentage share in the proceeds.

Railway Extensions.

85. The decision was taken during 1926 to extend the Kassala Railway forthwith as far as Gedaref, with the ultimate intention of continuing from there to Makwar, thus linking up with the present main line from Port Sudan to El Obeid. Work on the extension to Gedaref was started in the autumn of 1926 in anticipation of raising the necessary loan, and a contract for the large bridge across the Atbara was placed with Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co. Railhead reached the River Atbara in January 1927. It is expected that the bridge will be completed and railhead advanced to Gedaref before the rains in 1928. This development is expected to prove a great stimulus to the export of crops, especially durra, from the country lying round and to the south of Gedaref. This is an area of more certain rainfall, and better security for regular production, than any now served by the railway. The provision of facilities for moving large quantities of grain at cheap prices from such a district should help towards keeping the cost at a moderate level, and avoiding the violent fluctuations which now occur when the rains fail—as they do periodically in the northern provinces. Incidentally also, it should help to prevent any disturbance of the country's economic balance as a result of the large sums of money realised from cotton growing in the Gezira.

Loan Transactions.

86. No transactions actually took place during 1926, but arrangements were made in the course of the year for the following issues, which took place at the beginning of 1927 :—

Kassala Railway Company: Issue of £150,000 4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Debentures.

On the 19th January, 1927, arrangements were made through the Bank of England for the sale of £150,000 4½ per cent. debentures for the above company, part of the unissued balance of the full authorised amount of £1,500,000. The consent of the Treasury had previously been obtained to the application of the balance of this loan for general railway purposes.

Gedaref Railway and Development Company (Limited): Issue of £2,160,000 Guaranteed 5 per Cent. Debentures.

This company was formed in 1926 (on similar lines to the Sudan Construction and Equipment Company and the Kassala Railway Company) for the purpose of raising funds through the issue of a loan guaranteed under the Trade Facilities Acts for railway extensions and other development purposes. An issue of £2,160,000 5 per cent. debenture at 100½ was made in February 1927. This sum will provide for the construction and equipment of the line from Kassala

to Gedaref, and its eventual extension from there to Makwar, for works at Port Sudan, for a part of the expenditure on the extension of the Gezira irrigation project and for various other general purposes.

Government Commercial Undertakings and Interests.

Railways and Steamers Department.

87. The gross receipts at £E. 2,115,999 were the highest on record, the previous best figure having been £E. 1,998,914 in 1921, during the period of post-war inflation when all rates stood at a considerably higher level. These exceptionally good results were mainly due to increased receipts from cotton, gum and sugar, as can be seen from the following table given in round figures :—

	1925. £E.	1926. £E.	Increase. £E.
Cotton ...	60,000	192,600	132,600
Cotton-seed ...	10,700	52,700	42,000
Gum	151,300	183,000	31,700
Sugar ...	124,600	167,000	42,400
Total ...	346,600	595,300	248,700

Apart from gum, the working of the Gezira irrigation project is almost entirely responsible for the above increases.

88. It is not necessary in this report to deal in detail with the working results of the railways, but the following table has been prepared in order to explain the financial policy which has been followed during recent years :—

—	Gross Receipts.	Operating Costs.	Provision for Renewals and Capital Improvements.	Interest on Railway Loans.	Provision for Pensions, &c.	Net Balance transferred to Central Government.	Amount voted back for Railway Expenditure from General Reserve Fund.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
1922...	1,624,519	1,250,889	50,000	...	...	323,630	56,081
1923...	1,715,527	991,127	260,000	26,655	...	437,745	50,690
1924...	1,863,727	925,841	260,005	41,937	...	635,944	212,728
1925...	1,909,650	980,931	390,000	100,074	50,816	387,829	20,000
1926...	2,115,999	1,082,727	478,597	102,469	50,256	451,405	...

89. It will be noted that the practice of including a proper and regular provision for renewals against the railway revenue was introduced in 1923, and that since 1925 the provision for normal capital improvements and betterment has also been made from railway revenues. Prior to 1925 such provision for the latter as was possible was made by votes from the General Reserve Fund of the Government, while prior to 1923 provision for renewals was also made intermittently in this way. The recent changes are in accord-

ance with sound practice and constitute steps towards placing the finance of the railways on an independent and self-supporting basis. The difference between the last two columns in the above table represents the "net dividend" drawn by the Government from the railways (*i.e.*, the balance transferred less amounts "put back into the business").

90. The opinion is sometimes expressed in local commercial circles that the Sudan Government derives very substantial revenue from the railways and, in fact, uses its ownership as an instrument for imposing taxation. The following figures are therefore of interest, showing the comparison of the amount paid each year by the Government as a "customer" of the railways with the net dividend which it has got as a shareholder. The figures for "Government Traffic" include transport for the local army, for all civil departments, and for the stone traffic for the construction of the Sennar Dam. (Prior to 1925 the army traffic represented traffic for the Egyptian army.)

Year.	Net Dividend retained. £E.	Value of Government Traffic. £E.
1922	267,549	520,702
1923	387,055	500,303
1924	423,216	552,929
1925	367,829	404,343
1926	451,405	368,200

From this table it appears that it was only in 1926 for the first time that the Government drew a net balance in cash from the railways. When it is considered that the railways capital account, after deducting capital, raised on loan, for which interest has already been deducted, amounts to no less than £E. 6,298,910, it cannot be said that the Government is drawing an excessive cash dividend from its railways.

Port Sudan.

91. The developments at this port may properly be considered in connection with the railways. Construction on the two new coaling berths and the coal transporters proceeded during 1926, and these are expected to be ready in the autumn of 1927. These works, together with other improvements at this port, are estimated to cost, when completed, £E. 412,105, which is to be provided as follows :—

	£E.
From the Sudan Construction and Equipment Company Loan	206,105
From the Gedaref Railway and Development Company Loan (see below)	86,000
From Government reserve funds	120,000
Total	412,105

The new town water supply, brought by a pipe-line from Khor Arbat, 18 miles away, was also completed during 1926, and on the success

of this first instalment it was decided to double the line. This work is being carried out by the Public Works Department. The total cost of the enlarged undertaking will be about £E. 100,000. This has been financed as to about £E. 40,000 from the Sudan Construction and Equipment Company Loan and as to the balance from the General Reserve Fund.

Gezira Irrigation Project.

92. The financial aspects of the Gezira project require special consideration in this year's report.

Capital Position—

93. The necessary capital works are not entirely complete. As regards certain items (escape channels, &c), these are in hand and estimates of cost are available; but as regards others, *e.g.*, masonry aprons on the down-stream side of the dam, it is not yet possible to say exactly what will be required. Without making any substantial allowances for items of the latter class, it is estimated that the full capital cost of the original project, *i.e.*, the dam and canalisation of 300,000 feddans, will be £E. 11,224,798 (£11,512,612 sterling). It must be recognised that this amount may possibly be exceeded, and the Government must maintain reserves for this contingency; but, for the purpose of the calculations made below, this figure has been taken as the final capital cost.

94. The position may be summarised as follows :—

	£E.	£E.
Net proceeds of Sudan Guaranteed loans applied to the project (see Appendix (III))	9,451,272*	
Temporary advances by Sudan Government from its own resources	1,326,384	
Total expenditure to December 31, 1926 ...		10,777,656
Estimate of further expenditure to complete		447,142
Total estimated expenditure for 300,000 feddans project		11,224,798

Revenue and Expenditure 1926—

95. The results for the cultivating season, July 1925–May 1926, are as follows :—

Area under cotton...	(feddans)	80,000
Total lint produced	(kantars)	388,140
Bales (of 430 lbs.)	... ...	89,629
Yield in kantars of lint per feddan	... ...	4·85
Cotton seed	... (tons)	34,864

Total net price realised for cotton and cotton seed after payment of all transport and marketing costs, £2,377,434 sterling.

* £9,693,612 sterling.

This is the sum divisible between the cultivators, the Government and the syndicate. According to the contract with the syndicate, that part of the area which was formerly watered by the Wad-el-Nau pumps is not to be included in the Government's share until the season 1927–28. The proceeds from this area—which is to be taken as 12·39 per cent. of the whole—have therefore to be deductd in calculating the Government's share.

96. The result for the Government works out accordingly as follows :—

	£ (stg.).
Total net price realised for crop—as above...	2,377,434
Deduct Wad-el-Nau proportion, 12·39 per cent.	294,564
	2,082,870
Add local sales...	23,975
Total	2,106,845

35 per cent. share due to Government : = £737,395 sterling – £E. 718,961.

97. The above figure is subject to final adjustment on completion of the account sales. The figure actually included in the Government accounts for 1926 is £E. 700,000 only. The whole of the cotton had not been sold when the accounts were made up and the Government's share in the unsold portion was valued at a conservative figure.

98. In addition to the above the Government will, in fact, be entitled to some payment from the syndicate on account of the Wad-el-Nau area. The amount is, however, still uncertain and for the purpose of reviewing the general result this special arrangement may be left out of account.

99. What the situation as disclosed above really amounts to is—

	£E.	£E.	£E.
That the share of the Government for 1926 on only 70 per cent. of the full area was			718,961
As against this the direct expenditure was as follows :—			
Interest—			
On guaranteed loans... ...	505,397		
On Government advances ...	66,080		
		571,477	
Rent of lands		30,602	
Irrigation Department expenses ...		104,769	
			706,848
Surplus			12,113

As against this surplus it must, however, be realised that considerable expenditure is incurred by the Government in connection with the

project, *e.g.*, on agricultural research work, additional political officers, medical and veterinary staff, police, &c. In any complete profit and loss account for the project a good deal of this expenditure should be included. For 1926 the figure amounted to about £E. 20,000, divided approximately as follows :—

	£E.
Special medical and sanitary services ...	12,000
Research	6,000
Gezira Commissioners' Office	2,000

On the other side, however, account must be taken of the additional revenue earned by the Government from extra railway traffic, export duty at 1 per cent. on the crop, import duty and sugar profit attributable to increased purchasing power of the tenants, traders tax on the syndicate's profits, &c. The additional net revenue accruing in this way for 1926 probably amounted to at least £E. 150,000.

100. The Government's financial gain resulting from the project was therefore undoubtedly most substantial, while for the cultivating tenants and the whole surrounding population, the possession of this area with its assured crops and demands for labour in a year of bad rains such as 1926 made all the difference between famine and prosperity. For this purpose, the dura and lubia crops were of almost more importance than the cotton, and there is no doubt that without them the Government would have had to undertake far heavier commitments in the way of importing grain than have in fact proved necessary, in order to stabilise prices and afford famine relief when required. It is no exaggeration to say that the Gezira project in 1926 was an important factor in saving the Government from what would have been a very costly and difficult problem.

101. It must, however, be realised that the 1926 results were very exceptional. The yield of 4·85 kantars is one of the best ever recorded, and compares with a return of only 2·34 in the preceding season. Moreover, the price realised was considerably higher than can be safely reckoned on. The net proceeds in fact, after deducting all costs for ginning and marketing, amounted to no less than £30 per feddan. For the purpose of the Government's calculations, it has never been thought safe to consider anything higher than £20 per feddan, and with further experience of the cost of marketing and other factors, it seems that this is a decidedly optimistic estimate for an average over a long period of years.

102. As regards the future, many changes are in sight. For the current season, 1926–27, the area under cotton has been increased from 80,000 to 100,000 feddans, though, as far as the Government is concerned, the change is really from 70,000 to 90,000, because the special arrangement for the Wad-el-Nau area referred to above is still in force for one more season.

103. While the area under cotton will thus be 20,000 feddans larger than for last season, the Government's share of the proceeds under the new agreement made with the Sudan Plantations Syndicate—to which reference was made above—will also be increased from 35 per cent. to 37½ per cent.

104. The figure for revenue included in the budget estimate is based on a net return of £20 per feddan under cultivation, and the results as regards crop and sales to date indicate that this amount may well be realised, although it is too early to speak with any certainty on this point. On this basis, the Government revenue will be £E. 698,100, against direct expenditure of £E. 746,483.

105. As regards the more distant future, the Government concluded during 1926 an agreement with the syndicate to extend its concession area from 300,000 to 465,000 feddans (*i.e.*, 155,000 feddans of cotton), and when this extension is complete, the Government's share will be increased to 40 per cent. This new agreement has been dealt with above in the section on new projects.

Kassala Cotton.

106. The Gash flood for the 1925–26 season was very disappointing, and the total area cultivated for cotton was only about 10,000 feddans. The yield was about 22,000 kantars of ginned cotton. The Government's share will amount to about £E. 25,000 (though in making up the accounts for 1926 a figure of only £E. 20,000 was taken, as the cotton had not all been sold). In order to estimate the Government's position in connection with this enterprise the financial results from working the railway must also be taken into account. The "deficit" on the Kassala line, as calculated according to the agreement with the cotton company, after making all loan charges, was £E. 11,849, towards which the Kassala Cotton Company contributes one-half. The prospects for 1927 are better as the area under cotton is about 28,000 feddans. On the other hand, cotton prices will be lower.

Tokar Cotton.

107. Cotton is grown in this area in conditions similar to Kassala, but the Government deals direct with the cultivator. The 1925–26 flood was one of the worst ever known, and the Government's profit, after deducting value of seed issued, was only £E. 8,300.

Rain-grown Cotton.

108. Exceptionally bad rains and the severe slump in the price of American cotton combined to give this industry a check in the 1925–26 season. The shortage of grain and consequent high price of dura also militated against any substantial areas being put under cotton.

109. The provinces in which the Government has taken steps to encourage cotton growing fall into two groups—northern and southern. In the northern group the Government's intervention is limited to the supply of seed and the provision of ginning facilities. In the southern provinces, however (Mongalla, Bahr-el-Ghazal, Upper Nile and Nuba Mountains), conditions are much more difficult, and the Government has been forced to intervene in the buying and transport of the crop. Altogether six small ginneries have been erected or ordered. Pending the completion of these ginneries the

moving of unginned cotton from distant points is a costly operation, and at the minimum prices paid by the Government a loss was incurred on the 1925–26 operations. It is estimated that this loss was at least counterbalanced by the increased earnings from railway and steamer traffic and in other indirect ways; but, in order to be on the safe side, provision has been made from the Reserve Fund to cover possible losses in 1926 and 1927. Cotton prices have improved recently, and the result for 1927 is likely to be quite satisfactory. The policy is to proceed with caution in this development, but, according to the results at present obtained, it appears that, with a price of $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ for "American middling" in Liverpool, production can be carried on with a reasonable margin of profit in these provinces as soon as the local ginneries are operating. The indirect benefits which result from providing these primitive people with some chance of occupation and economic production are, from an administrative point of view, of great importance.

Agricultural Research.

110. Agricultural research should perhaps be mentioned in connection with the Government's commercial enterprises, as its results may have a very important bearing on their success. Progress has been made during 1926 with the Government's programme at the Gezira Research Farm near Wad Medani and the plant-breeding establishment at Shambat. The Sudan Plantations Syndicate and the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation are giving financial assistance to this work. It will be the Government's policy to devote a proportion of its revenue from the Gezira project to research work of this kind.

Sudan Light and Power Company (Limited).

111. Progress on the bridge across the White Nile, from Khartum to Omdurman, and the electrification of the tramway system have been delayed by the coal strike in Great Britain. In other respects progress has been satisfactory. The electricity supply to Omdurman was opened on the 1st December, 1926, and the water supply on the 1st January of this year. It is expected that the bridge and electric tram service will be completed before the end of 1927. The Government, according to its agreement with the company, remains entitled to a fixed rental at the rate of £E. 27,500 per annum until the 30th June, 1928. After that the Government's receipts will depend on the profits made from the undertaking.

Chapter V.—Economics and Trade.

External Trade.

112. The external trade of the country, excluding transit goods and specie, increased in value from £E. 9,606,091 in 1925 to £E. 10,764,906 in 1926, an increase of £E. 1,158,815, or 12 per cent. This result is due to the large increase in the value of cotton and cotton seed exported, viz., from £E. 1,756,053 to £E. 3,091,359, an increase of £E. 1,335,306. But for this larger output of cotton

the value of external trade would have shown a decrease as compared with 1925.

113. The value of foreign trade during the last four years has been as follows. The table includes values in 1913 for comparative purposes :—

(In thousands £E.)

——	1913.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Increase per cent. 1926 over 1925.	Increase per cent. 1926 over 1913.
Imports (public) ...	1,605	2,974	3,655	3,827	3,779	Decrease. 1·25	135·45
Imports (Government)... ...	504	1,695	1,820	1,611	1,796	Increase. 11·48	256·35
Exports ...	1,185	2,562	3,542	3,801	4,876	28·28	311·48
Re-exports ...	94	196	288	367	314	Decrease. 14·44	234·04
	3,388	7,427	9,305	9,606	10,765	12·06	217·74

Note.—If sugar, which has been under Government control since early in 1919, were classified as an import by the public, the comparison would be as follows :—

(In thousands £E.)

——	1913.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Increase per cent. 1926 over 1925.	Increase per cent. 1926 over 1913.
Imports (public) ...	1,605	3,194	4,056	4,208	4,270	1·47	165·88
Imports (Government)	504	1,475	1,419	1,230	1,305	6·01	158·73

Balance of Trade.

114. The balance of trade shows an improvement as compared with 1925, as will be seen from the following table :—

Balance of Trade (exclusive of Transit Goods and Specie).

(In thousands £E.)

	1925.	1926.
Public imports	3,827	3,779
Less public re-exports	243	248
Net public imports	3,584	3,531
Exports	3,801	4,876
Excess of exports over net public imports	217	1,345
Government imports (including specie), less re-exports	1,595	1,629
Total excess of imports over exports ...	1,636	698

If sugar, the whole of which is imported by Government, is treated as a public import, the balance of public trade works out as follows :—

(In thousands £E.)

	1925.	1926.
Imports	4,208	4,270
Exports and re-exports	4,045	5,124
Balance of imports over exports and re-exports	163	—
Balance of exports and re-exports over imports	—	854

115. An unsatisfactory feature in the imports last year is an import of dura (millet) of 21,734 tons, valued at £E 212,053. This import was necessitated by the shortage of local food crops owing to bad rains, a matter to which further reference will be made in this note.

Imports.

116. Public imports decreased from £E. 3,827,358 to £E. 3,778,884, a decrease of £E. 48,474, or 1·26 per cent. The chief increases were in dura (millet) by £E. 210,757, from £E. 1,296 to £E. 212,053; wheat flour by £E. 47,251, or 34 per cent.; tea by £E. 58,547, or 37 per cent.; motor cars, cycles, &c., by £E. 23,292, or 30 per cent. The chief decreases were in cotton piece-goods by £E. 354,880, or 30 per cent.; tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, &c., by £E. 19,580, or 7 per cent.; soap by £E. 22,681, or 33 per cent.; coffee by £E. 74,741, or 23 per cent.; machinery by £E. 59,126, or 41 per cent.; and metal and metal-ware by £E. 27,921, or 15 per cent. Government imports increased in value from £E. 1,610,369 to £E. 1,795,517, an increase of £E. 185,148, or 11·5 per cent. The chief increases were in sugar, by £E. 111,083, or 29 per cent.; machinery by £E. 120,069, or 70 per cent.; arms and explosives by £E. 53,726. The chief decreases were in metal and metal-ware, by £E. 46,192, or 11 per cent., and timber and railway sleepers, by £E. 35,057, or 48 per cent. Government imports were mainly in connection with irrigation works in the Gezira and the railway and other public works.

Exports.

117. Public exports increased in value from £E. 3,801,348 in 1925 to £E. 4,876,236 in 1926, an increase of £E. 1,074,888, or 28 per cent. The bulk of the value of Sudan exports is comprised under very few headings, viz. :—

	Value exported in 1926. £E.	Percentage of total exports in 1926.
Cotton (ginned) and cotton-seed ...	3,091,359	63·4
Gum arabic	844,198	17·3
Cattle, sheep, hides and skins ...	253,028	5·2
Sesame	257,866	5·3
Ground nuts	114,658	2·3
Other exports	315,127	6·5
Total	4,876,236	100·0

118. By far the greater part of the ginned cotton exported was from the Gezira irrigation scheme, the export value of which was approximately £E. 2,200,000. Exports of gum increased by £E. 52,267, or 6·6 per cent.; of sesame by £E. 44,000, or 20·6 per cent.; of hides and skins by £E. 27,466, or 27·3 per cent. Ground nuts decreased by £E. 55,758, or 32·7 per cent.; dura (millet) by £E. 212,790, or 96 per cent.; cattle by £E. 22,248, or 18·6 per cent.; and sheep by £E. 16,841, or 38 per cent.

119. Goods to the value of £E. 1,724,107 were imported from Great Britain, *i.e.*, 30·9 per cent. of total imports, as compared with a value of £E. 1,788,330, or 32·9 per cent. of the total imports in 1925. Great Britain took exports to the value of £E. 3,434,210, or 70·4 per cent. of the total exports, as compared with 56·6 per cent. in 1925. Goods of Egyptian origin were imported to the value of £E. 809,500, or 14·5 per cent., as compared with 20·2 per cent. in 1925; while exports to Egypt were £E. 585,197, or 12 per cent., as compared with 20·8 per cent. in 1925. Great Britain supplied, direct, cotton piece-goods to the value of £E. 190,700, a decrease of £E. 132,701, or 41 per cent. of the total imports of cotton piece-goods. 94·8 per cent. of the export and 73·5 per cent. of the import trade was carried by the Red Sea route. Trade with Abyssinia decreased from £E. 470,483 in 1925 to £E. 369,662 in 1926. This decrease is due to a decreased import of coffee into the Sudan and a decrease in Maria Theresa dollars forwarded in transit to Abyssinia viâ Gambeila. The value of trade viâ Gambeila was £E. 286,325, as against £E. 355,990 last year. The value of coffee imported viâ Gambeila decreased from £E. 209,955 in 1925 to £E. 173,174 in 1926.

120. There has been an increase in trade with Uganda and the Belgian Congo from £E. 24,052 in 1925 to £E. 26,760 in 1926, while the value of trade with Eritrea was £E. 54,487, as compared with £E. 32,125 in 1925.

Economic Situation.

121. In last year's note the economic position was discussed at some length. Briefly, the successful results of the first season's working of the Gezira cotton-growing scheme on a large scale were being eagerly awaited, but the anticipated success of the scheme was

not enough to dispel the general feeling of depression and anxiety caused by the comparative failure of the food crops of 1925–26.

122. Prices of the chief food grain, dura (millet), were very high, and the people, especially those living in towns, were looking forward with foreboding to the hard times ahead before the next harvest, and to the worse difficulties that might follow a further short crop in 1926–27. Foreign trade was suffering from the unsettled state of the world's markets. The heavy decline in cotton prices had already set in.

123. The year 1926 thus opened with misgivings, and, with the notable exception of the Gezira irrigation scheme, where a high yield compensated for the lower price of cotton, has unfortunately fulfilled some of these gloomy forecasts and provided a number of unpleasant experiences.

Shortage of Grain.

124. The rains of 1926 were again insufficient, and the rain crop of 1926–27 takes its place beside that of the previous year as one of the smallest on record. But for the large sums of money derived from their cotton cultivation by the people on the Gezira scheme, about £E. 1 million, and the 50,000 acres of dura grown on this irrigated land, the economic position would have been very much worse, and in recounting the troubles under which trade has laboured of late there must always be set-off the immense advantage to the country in the acquisition of this vast permanent addition to its productive assets. A good Nile flood in 1926 also helped to ease the food situation by enabling a larger area of riverain food crops to be cultivated, while the prompt action taken by Government for the control of grain prices has done a great deal to restore the confidence of the people and put them in good heart. In spite of a second successive poor rain crop, the food question is causing less difficulty than it did a year ago. Nevertheless, the high price of grain during the last eighteen months, apart from its other ill effects, has been a severe handicap to trade, and has swallowed up the small surplus of trading capital possessed by the native population of the central and northern districts. Instead of exporting some 30,000 tons of dura, the Sudan has had to import 21,000 tons to supplement domestic resources, and is therefore some £E. 400.000 to the bad on its dura account.

Insurance of Food Supply.

125. In order to ensure a sufficiency of food for the people in the large towns and in districts where the crops had failed, the Government built up a central reserve of grain by purchasing dura from overseas through local importers. At the same time, the import duty on dura was waived and special cheap railway rate introduced for imported grain. The successful policy of non-interference with public imports or with the internal movement of grain resulted in a continuous inflow of grain supplies from India and elsewhere, and the demands on the Government reserve were small. There is no doubt that prices were stabilised by the presence

of a large stock of grain held by the Government, and though prices were high in comparison with years of plenty, the people were fed with practically no active intervention in the grain trade by the Government.

126. Imports of grain amounted to 21,734 tons, of which 11,276 tons were for Government use. Issues of grain made by the Government were :—

	Tons.
Army and Civil Departments	3,733
Poor relief	400

At the end of 1926 the Government held 7,000 tons of grain to face a second year of food shortage. The army and departments' requirements for the year 1927, amounting to about 2,600 tons, were again supplied from the reserve, and the balance now held is being used to support a continuance of the policy which proved so successful during 1926.

127. The policy of encouraging imports of grain by the public has thoroughly justified the measures taken. Prices in the north and east are being kept at a reasonable level by the imports of Egyptian, Arabian and Indian dura, which amount to a steady monthly total of about 1,500 tons.

128. The period for the free import and cheap rail freight for grain has been extended to the 30th September, 1927. Small local reserves of grain have been established in centres where shortage is anticipated with a view to steadying prices. No issues for relief have yet been found necessary, and so far as can be foreseen at present the reserve held by the Government will be sufficient to meet any eventuality until the extent of the next rains are known. Given good rains, a large grain crop may be confidently anticipated. The recent experience of two consecutive years of scarcity and high prices will ensure that the maximum area available will be put under food crops.

129. It may be noted that in previous periods of grain shortage the imports of grain were as follows :—

	Tons.
1914	27,345
1919	11,419

Rain-grown Cotton.

130. The failure of the rains during the last two years has made a clean sweep of the rain-grown cotton in the central districts and has deprived the native of a useful cash crop, while the fall in the price of cotton has reduced the price which can be paid to the native in southern districts to a figure which is very near to an unremunerative level. It is still possible, however, even at present prices, to grow considerable areas of cotton in the Southern Sudan. Cultivation is being maintained and in some areas increased. In the import trade the fall in the price of cotton goods has depreciated merchants' stocks. The flood crop of cotton in the Tokar district of Red Sea Province in 1925–26 was a very poor one, the flooded area being very small. The Kassala crop in the Gash Delta was also disappointing.

Gum Arabic.

131. There has also been a serious drop in the price of gum arabic, one of the chief exports of the country, valued in 1923 at over £E. 1 million. Prices at El Obeid for this season have been about 60 P.T. per kantar, as compared with 90 P.T. a year ago and 105 P.T. and 106 P.T. in 1925 and 1924. In spite of the low price, more gum was exported in 1926 than in any previous year, and arrivals this season are greater than ever. This activity in gum collection is no doubt largely due to the need of cash to pay the high prices demanded for dura and dukhn. Nomadic tribes have had to put up with smaller sales of camels, cattle and sheep for export, and throughout the northern districts there has been a considerable loss of animals owing to the drought.

132. These facts are sufficient to show that the Sudan has received a hard buffeting in 1926, though the effect of this is not readily apparent from the trade figures. If, however, the value of cotton and cotton-seed exports is left out of account, the value of the rest of the export trade of the country shows a decrease from £E. 2,035,307 in 1925 to £E. 1,773,851 in 1926, a fall of £E. 261,456, or 12·8 per cent. If the value of imported dura, £E. 212,053, is added to this decrease in the export trade of the country, other than cotton, the total debit of some £E. 473,500 may be said to have absorbed a good deal of the profits made on cotton.

Effects of the Gezira Scheme, Sugar Consumption, &c.

133. There is some doubt as to what the native tenant in the Gezira has done with the proceeds of his cotton sales. The value he has received for cotton has not reflected itself as visibly or as quickly in its effect on general trade as was expected. There is little doubt, however, that but for the proceeds from the Gezira cotton, imports would have made a worse showing than they have done.

134. For instance, in one item alone, sugar, consumption in Blue Nile Province has increased from 2,096 tons in 1925 to 3,453 tons in 1926. Sales of sugar throw a considerable light on the situation. The consumption of sugar in the whole of the Sudan in 1926 was 20,340 tons, as compared with 15,439 in 1925, and the sum spent by the population was about £E. 1,124,401, as against £E. 1,055,928 in 1925, an increase of £E. 68,473. (Note.—Retail prices of sugar were reduced in February 1926.) If the Blue Nile Province consumption is eliminated it will be found that sales in the rest of the Sudan increased from 13,343 to 16,887 tons, and that the sum spent on sugar by the people increased from approximately £E. 907,112 to £E. 924,127.

135. Though, possibly, when dura is expensive, people eat sugar as a partial substitute for grain, it remains, nevertheless, an interesting fact that in spite of the hard times last year the people increased their consumption of sugar by 31·7 per cent., and spent more on it than in 1925, when conditions were much easier. The quantity of

sugar consumed in each province and the approximate amount spent on sugar by the people in 1925 and 1926 were as follows :—

	1925.		1926.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£E.		£E.
Khartoum	3,582	247,158	3,770	207,350
Blue Nile	2,096	148,816	3,453	200,274
Kordofan	2,207	161,111	3,406	204,360
Berber	2,175	141,375	2,695	137,445
Dongola	1,926	125,190	2,371	120,921
Kassala	633	42,411	1,071	56,763
White Nile	660	48,180	972	58,320
Red Sea	927	56,547	791	37,177
Halfa	489	29,340	620	29,140
Fung	446	33,450	507	30,927
Others	298	22,350	684	41,724
Total	15,439	1,055,928	20,340	1,124,401

Purchasing Power of the People.

136. Though, however, the people have spent more money on sugar than they did in 1925, there must obviously have been a considerable reduction in the wealth and spending power of the country as a whole. This appears from the following table showing the value of imports of certain articles in native demand, but it should be noted that these values represent imports during the year and take no account of stocks carried over, of which no reliable estimate is obtainable :—

IMPORTS.

(Value in thousands £E.)

Article.	1913.	Average, 1913–24.	1925.	1926.
Cotton fabrics	504	890	1,180	830
Coffee	68	183	318	243
Tea	39	77	159	219

Material Progress.

137. The material progress of the people is hard to measure statistically. No conclusions based on consumption per head of the population are of any value, as statistics of the number of inhabitants of the Sudan are mostly guess-work. Also, conditions of life in the central and northern parts of the country differ profoundly from those prevailing in the pagan and negroid regions of the south. It is impossible, moreover, to estimate the rate of increase in the population of a country which has emerged in less than thirty years from a state of barbarism, pestilence and internecine fighting into one of settled and peaceful conditions.

138. Outward signs of progress are visible almost everywhere and there has undoubtedly been a widespread rise in the standard of

living. Compared with twenty years ago the Sudan spends about ten times as much on sugar, thirteen times as much on tea and coffee, and five times as much on cotton goods. As only about half the population, or probably less, have more than a trifling interest in these imports, it may be said that the increase in consumption is substantial.

139. In the same period exports have increased ten-fold in value from £E. 449,329 to £E. 4,876,236.

140. These developments are, of course, mainly confined to the settled Arab population of the northern part of the country, and there remains the problem as to the economic future of the nomadic tribes of the north and the vast areas of the Southern Sudan with their large though scattered and primitive negroid population.

141. It would be out of place in this note to discuss the ethical side of this problem. It is enough to point out that the pursuance of a *laisser-aller* policy and to leave these people in their pristine conditions, attractive as it is in some respects, is impossible in practice. As the country progresses so many points of contact are set up between these backward peoples and civilisation that the joint issue of moral and material welfare and the question of the extrusion of the ancient methods by modern forces inevitably present themselves.

142. In the south the economic problem is by no means new, but of late it has been gathering greater importance, chiefly, perhaps, owing to the ubiquity of the motor car and the extension of motor roads, which are partly the cause and partly the effect of the first deliberate attempt to encourage the cultivation of rain-grown (American) cotton in southern areas. This movement was greatly encouraged by the high prices at which cotton was selling when the campaign began.

143. The recent fall in value of cotton has made it necessary to recast estimates as to the rate of progress, but even at its present low price it will pay for cultivation in many parts of the south and constitutes an important nucleus of development in areas where a few years ago the people had no means of earning any money. Ginneries for cotton are being provided by Government in promising areas to enable the cost of transport to be reduced, and the question of reduced railway and steamer rates is under examination.

Grain Production.

144. The fall in the price of cotton has coincided with the great rise in the price of food grains (dura), and this has again brought to the front the need for minimising the severity of the effect, on prices and supply, of the periodical failure of the rains. The ultimate solution undoubtedly lies in developing the production of grain in regions where rainfall is more copious and reliable than it is in the present areas of supply, and there is reason to believe that in course of time Nuba Mountains Province and the Upper Nile Province can play a much greater part in supplying the Northern Sudan with grain.

145. Under the influence of high prices these provinces have recently put large quantities of grain on to the northern markets. This line of grain development can be pursued without any undue encroachment on cotton growing, provided the latter is confined to reasonable dimensions. In fact, the two policies should be complementary. Other crops should also be susceptible of increase in the southern districts, especially coffee, sesame and ground nuts.

Transport.

146. The chief question on which all these southern developments turn is transport in one shape or another. It presents many difficulties except in districts within a limited range of the river, but a consistent campaign for the increase of grain cultivation in suitable areas should lead in time to results of value not only to the immediate districts concerned, but to much of the rest of the Sudan as well. This matter, together with the improvement of roads, provision of markets, seed supply, storage accommodation, is under careful consideration. A good start has already been made. For instance, during the last three years road development in the southern provinces has increased at a great pace. Thousands of miles of road have been opened to motor traffic in the dry weather.

147. It is to be noted that the imports of motor cars, motor cycles and accessories (excluding tyres) into the Sudan during the past three years have increased as follows :—

	£E.
Value in 1924	45,356
Value in 1925	83,923
Value in 1926	93,694

There are at present about 1,300 motor cars (including lorries) in use in the Sudan.

Ginning Factories.

148. Apart from the ginnery at Makwar for rain-grown cotton, ginneries have been erected, or are in course of erection, at Torit in Mongala Province and at Talodi and Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains Province. Ginneries are contemplated for Shukoli (Opari), Yei and Meridi in Mongalla Province.

Markets.

149. Kaka, the river port of the Nuba Mountains Province and a promising market, is being connected with the telegraph line, and a storage shed has been supplied. The Government is running a motor transport service for goods between Tonga on the Upper Nile

and Talodi. In the Upper Nile Province a road is being made connecting Kodok with Tonga, and the Burun country is being opened to trade by a road from Melut through Nyeda to Kurmuk in the Fung Province. On the Sobat River a storage shed has been put up at Khor Jokau, the terminus of a new road on which lorries are being run, opening up Kigelle District towards the Daga River. Auctions are being held for produce at Renk market (Upper Nile Province), and a new market has been started at Gaigor in that province. Supplementary steamer services are being run on the Sobat River before and after the Gambeila transport season. A close study is being made of economic possibilities in these southern districts and though progress must necessarily be slow it should in time be substantial, provided a steady effort is made.

Condition of the Nomadic Tribes.

150. The main money-earning occupation of the nomadic people is the camel-carrying trade. Subsidiary to this, though very important, is the sale of cattle and sheep, both for the home market and for export, and also, in the eastern Sudan, the sale of camels for export for slaughter in Upper Egypt. The home market for sheep is capable of expansion, and is, in fact, increasing considerably as the native standard of living in the Central and Northern Sudan improves, but the export market for cattle, sheep and camels is not likely to grow very rapidly. For both camels and sheep there has latterly been a considerable decrease in demand.

151. As regards the carrying trade, it was found, in the Western Sudan, that railway extension, so far from reducing, increased the demand for camels for transport and the camel still easily beats the motor lorry for cheapness. In that part of the country the great extension of the gum trade and the demand for cattle on the Egyptian market have tided the camel owner through a difficult period of transition. The Government has expended large sums in Kordofan Province for the provision of wells for the assistance of transport, whether for camels or for cattle.

152. In the Eastern Sudan it remains to be seen how the continuation of the railway from Kassala to Gedaref, and eventually to Makwar, will affect the carrying trade hitherto done by camels. In the meantime a promising beginning has been made in Kassala Province (and in other provinces also) in the digging out of old wells and watering places, which, besides easing the difficulty as to pasturage, will enable people to grow an increasing amount of grain for themselves and lighten the hardships attendant on such times of scarcity as the present.

153. In Kassala and Red Sea Provinces a revival in demand for dom nuts (vegetable ivory) has been a help to the Beja-speaking people. Exports last year were £E.50,959 in value and in 1925 £E. 41,180. Railway transport now available by the Kassala line has enabled advantage to be taken of this improved demand. Local auctions of dom nuts have been successful and helpful.

Cotton.

154. Exports of cotton and cotton-seed in 1926 were as follows :—

	Cotton.		Cotton-seed.		Total Value of Cotton and Cotton-seed.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Tons.	£E.	Tons.	£E.	£E.
Egyptian, ginned ...	19,271	2,603,040	39,639	224,552	2,827,592
American, ginned ...	2,888	231,805	7,032	31,962	263,767
Cotton-scarto ...	244	10,857	...	...	10,857
Cotton, unginned ...	14	169	...	...	169
Total... ...	22,417	2,845,871	46,671	256,514	3,102,385

About 90 per cent. of the Egyptian cotton exported was grown on the Gezira irrigation scheme and the rest mainly in Kassala and Tokar.

155. Crops during the last four years in Tokar and Kassala (Gash) have been as follows :—

(Kantars of 315 rotls seed cotton.)

	Tokar.	Kassala.	
1923–24	66,237	10,158	
1924–25	31,449	27,259	
1925–26	10,077	22,547	
1926–27	27,000	50,000	(estimated)

In 1925–26 floods on both the Baraka River (Tokar) and the Gash River (Kassala) were poor.

156. The total exports of cotton and cotton-seed during the last four years have been as follows :—

Year.	Cotton.*		Cotton-seed.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£E.	Tons.	£E.
1923	5,093	458,188	9,323	71,235
1924	8,364	1,460,991	18,003	156,669
1925	7,752	1,636,784	13,939	119,269
1926	22,159	2,834,845	46,671	256,514

* Excludes cotton-scarto.

The Livestock Trade.—Cattle and Sheep.

157. Egypt still remains the only market for this export, which was less last year than in 1925. Exports were :—

	1925.	1926.
Cattle	18,735	16,560
Sheep	29,917	18,918

There were no stoppages of trade in 1926 owing to disease, but rinderpest was more prevalent than usual and caused difficulties and losses to native traders.

158. On the Nile route the conversion of the Aswan–Luxor line to the same gauge as that between Luxor and Cairo should render transport of animals easier.

159. All exports to Alexandria go viâ Port Sudan by sea. The numbers carried by this route was 7,141 in 1926, as against 7,639 in 1925. Complaints were received as to the conditions under which Sudan cattle are landed in Alexandria, but it is understood that these abuses have been put a stop to by the Egyptian authorities.

160. The home market for animals, especially for sheep, is increasing. There is some reason for thinking that the decrease in export of sheep is partly due to the larger consumption in the Sudan. This is one of the ways in which increased wealth from cotton is expected to show itself.

161. The number of cattle and sheep slaughtered in ten of the chief towns in 1926 and 1925 was as follows :—

Town.	1925.		1926.	
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.
Khartum	3,502	35,119	2,798	38,124
Khartum, North ...	546	8,715	248	10,407
Omdurman	5,301	38,056	4,703	42,138
El Obeid	4,724	13,444	4,788	16,604
Wad Medani	3,137	16,397	2,702	18,474
Kassala	2,306	5,640	1,854	10,314
Gedaref	1,224	1,407	996	1,884
Atbara	946	12,038	1,049	15,327
Port Sudan	1,050	14,731	1,646	21,976
Wadi Halfa	306	5,104	249	5,272
Total	23,042	150,651	21,033	180,520

162. The Government farms (pumping stations) in Berber and Dongola Provinces continue to be a great boon in providing grazing for animals in the immediate neighbourhood, especially in times of low Nile and bad rains, such as have recently occurred. The new station at Kulud in Dongola Province, which is being provided to help a district which is very liable to run short of food supplies, will also be of assistance to animals.

163. The provision of a market for cattle from the extreme south in the Upper Nile Province and Bahr-el-Ghazal Province still remains an unsolved problem in spite of various experiments. Further attention is being given to the matter, and a veterinary officer is shortly going into the question again on the spot.

Hides and Skins.

164. Exports of hides and skins have been as follows; it will be seen that exports of sheepskins have improved :—

	1925.		1926.	
	Tons.	£E.	Tons.	£E.
Hides	465	31,586	431	29,987
Sheepskins	608	68,861	826	97,926

Camels.

165. The export of camels from the Eastern Sudan, almost entirely for slaughter, to Upper Egypt is estimated at 7,000 in 1926, as against 9,611 for twelve months ending the 31st March, 1925. This is a native trade carried on along desert routes. Part of the trade is done through El Damer market in Berber Province, but the bulk of it is done directly viâ Kassala and Red Sea Provinces to Upper Egypt. The time taken on the journey from El Damer to Farshut (Upper Egypt) is twenty-two days. Prices for Sudan camels in Egypt have fallen lately, and it is to be expected that the decline in the price of cotton in Egypt will adversely affect not only this trade, but that in cattle and sheep.

Gum Arabic.

166. The large export of the last three years was more than maintained :—

	Average export per annum. Tons.
1909–13	15,192
1914–18	14,086
1919–22	13,298
1923 (actual export)	22,425
1924 (actual export)	20,363
1925 (actual export)	18,956
1926 (actual export)	22,744

The value of the export was £E. 844,198, as compared with £E. 846,879 and £E. 791,931 in 1924 and 1925 respectively.

167. The eastern Sudan is taking a greater share in the gum trade. One of the contributory causes is the devolution to native boards of the settlement of disputes as to gum areas and the allocation of picking rights, cutting of fire lines, &c. The construction of the Kassala railway has, of course, helped the trade very greatly. In Kordofan Province further work has been done in providing wells to facilitate gum collection. A rough survey of potentialities in part of Nuba Mountains Province has been made.

168. In the last four years prices of gum have fallen nearly 100 per cent. Production has increased in spite of this owing to the high prices of food grains and the need for money. For some time past the question of over-production has bulked more largely than any risk of under-supply. It remains to be seen whether, with the advent of good rains and cheaper food, the collection of gum will be

restricted. In past times the gum industry has been greatly handicapped by fluctuations in prices, which have encouraged rash speculations, and it is much to be hoped that owing to the widening of the area of production the range of variation may be less in future, even if a marked change for the better in the food situation reduces supplies of gum. Gum collection is coming to be regarded more as a source of regular income than merely a stop-gap in bad times. A good deal of attention has been given to the possibility of stabilising prices by establishing some form of Government control over the trade, but it has not been possible to evolve any practical scheme.

169. The large exports of the last few years have still further increased the long lead of the Sudan gum in the world's market. Gum is exported direct from Port Sudan to all the principal markets. The chief purchasers in 1926 were Great Britain, 5,962 tons; the United States of America, 5,169 tons; France, 2,513 tons; Germany, 2,441 tons; Italy, 1,772 tons; Belgium, 1,337 tons; Japan, 951 tons; Holland, 622 tons; Australia, 583 tons; Spain, 434 tons; and Sweden, 343 tons.

Weights and Measures.

170. 2,042 standard measures for grain were issued during the year. The total number issued is 22,456, and these measures are now in use in most of the markets in the country.

171. The organisation of the Weights and Measures Section is proceeding satisfactorily, but the delay in delivery of plant, including standards, from England, in consequence of labour troubles, has hampered progress. In the Khartum area 269 wholesale and retail shops have been inspected and eight convictions were obtained for using illegal or unjust weights and measures. Further legal powers for dealing with fraudulent weights and measures are needed and are being obtained. It is proposed to make the stamping of all weights and measures and weighing apparatus compulsory, and this reform will be introduced as soon as circumstances permit. The Superintendent of Weights and Measures considers that some 50 per cent. of the weights and weighing apparatus in use in markets need attention. The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a sub-committee to co-operate in standardising the basis of weight in quotations for Sudan produce.

172. Some curious anomalies in weights and measures have grown up in the Sudan. The native goldsmith has evolved a scale of weights which differs from that in use anywhere else in the world. The origin of some of the land measures in untraceable.

Port Sudan Shipping.

173. The continuous increase in the tonnage of shipping at Port Sudan has been maintained. In 1926 the number of ships calling at this port was 825, of an international tonnage of 3,578,367. Ships of over fifty companies call at Port Sudan. The passenger traffic viâ this port is also increasing.

174. The following table shows the number of ships entering Port Sudan, and tonnage :—

TONNAGE of Shipping calling at Port Sudan in 1926.

Nationality.	Number of Vessels.	International Tons.	Net Registered Tons.
British ...	591	2,763,902	2,238,281
Italian ...	96	204,672	162,308
Dutch ...	41	189,599	145,950
Japanese ...	18	96,976	79,938
German ...	31	165,253	126,533
French ...	11	31,579	24,542
Norwegian ...	11	43,136	32,510
Swedish ...	9	32,419	23,225
Greek ...	4	8,276	6,036
Egyptian ...	3	2,220	1,882
Russian ...	2	15,297	10,987
Danish ...	2	6,816	5,185
Arab ...	2	336	310
American ...	1	5,220	3,450
Finnish ...	1	4,467	2,760
Jugoslav ...	1	4,185	3,177
Belgian ...	1	4,014	3,277
Total ...	825	3,578,367	2,870,351
Foreign tonnage	234	814,465	632,070

British tonnage increased from 2,470,493 tons in 1925 to 2,763,902 tons in 1926.

Fresh Water Supply—Port Sudan.

175. It has been found necessary to increase the supply of fresh water for Port Sudan. This is obtained by pipe-line from Khor Arbaat in the Red Sea hills about 17 miles distant. The increased supply will shortly be available, though delay has occurred in obtaining material owing to labour troubles in England.

Coal Quays—Port Sudan.

176. The transporters on the two new coal quays on the west side of the harbour, which have been provided to enable two of the existing berths on the east side to be used for general cargo, are nearing completion.

Railway Extension—Kassala–Gedaref.

177. This new line of about 130 miles takes the railway southwards from Kassala into an area of more favourable rainfall. The new railway reached Abu Deleig, the site chosen for the new railway bridge across the River Atbara, on the 27th January, 1927. The erection of the bridge will commence next winter, after the rains.

when the line will be carried into Gedaref. This line is a further step towards the eventual completion of a loop between Port Sudan and the existing main line at Makwar. In addition to the stimulus which this extension will give to trade in general in this eastern area, one of the chief benefits expected from the line is an increased and cheaper supply of dura for Kassala and Red Sea Provinces. It is possible also that trade with Abyssinia viâ Gallabat (on the Abyssinian frontier, 96 miles from Gedaref) will respond to these more rapid transport facilities, particularly as regards hides.

178. Something has already been done to help this frontier trade by reducing railway rates from Kassala to Port Sudan on hides and by easing customs formalities. This frontier trade should also benefit by the abolition last year of veterinary inspection fees on all hides and skins exported from the Sudan.

Southern Passenger Traffic.

179. At the other end of the Sudan, owing to road development and the arrival of the motor car, the tourist traffic viâ Uganda and Kenya is increasing. It is now a common occurrence in the winter season for passengers to motor between Rejaf on the Upper Nile and Nairobi, some 800 miles. If, as is probable, an all-weather motor road is made between Rejaf and Nimule (100 miles) on the Sudan–Uganda frontier, the next few years should see a rapid development in this through-passenger traffic. The Sudan and Uganda Governments are giving close attention to this matter.

180. The experimental flying-boat service between Khartum and Kisumu—the terminus on Lake Victoria of the Kenya–Uganda Railway—has carried out a number of flights.

Sudan Chamber of Commerce.

181. A good deal of work has been done, as usual, in close conjunction with the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, who continue to exercise a most useful function. The third annual joint meeting between the Central Economic Board and representatives of the chamber was held on the 13th February, 1926, when a number of important questions of policy were discussed.

182. Now that the Sudan receives every year so many visitors who are interested in one side or another of its trade and commerce and of its capital development, it is of much value that an institution exists to which these can refer for information and advice.

183. The chamber's new bourse and offices have been completed, and it is to be hoped that these will become a centre in which the principal native traders can become better acquainted with the conditions of foreign markets and learn something of the structure of the country's external trade. The whole trade of the country would derive great benefit from a wider knowledge on their part of the limiting factors, outside purely parochial conditions, under which it has to be carried out. It is by no means, of course, peculiar to the Sudan that the great fluctuations in prices and demand since 1914 have had an upsetting effect on local standards of

values, and, though it is too much to expect any perceptible progress for a long time to come, one step in the right direction would be an extension of the knowledge of commercial practice amongst the chief native traders, who are by no means lacking in initiative.

Imperial Institute.

184. Various reports on products and other information have been supplied by the Imperial Institute. The Sudan court has been overhauled and reorganised. The director of the institute remarks in his annual report that the models illustrating Sudan industries which are displayed in the court have been so much appreciated that other countries are now adopting similar models for their courts at the Imperial Institute.

Chapter VI.—Communications.

Railways and Steamers.

185. The general manager reports that the department has again had a most successful financial year. As shown in the table below, the gross profit on the year's working has increased from £E. 635,397 to £E. 740,919. After making appropriations from gross revenue amounting to £E. 338,968, the balance accruing to Central Government Funds has increased from £E. 387,829 to £E. 401,951. The ratio of expenditure to earnings has decreased from 66·7 per cent. to 65 per cent.

186. The following is a comparison of the 1926 results with those of the previous four years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenses.	Ratio of Expenditure to Earnings.	Profit.	Appropriations from Profit.	Net Profit.
	£E.	£E.	Per cent.	£E.	£E.	£E.
1922 ...	1,632,343	1,300,148	79·6	332,195	...	332,195
1923 ...	1,743,750	1,251,127	71·8	492,623	26,655	465,968
1924 ...	1,914,322	1,185,846	61·9	728,476	92,532	635,944
1925 ...	1,909,650	1,274,253	66·7	635,397	247,568	387,829
1926 ...	2,115,999	1,375,080	65·0	740,919	338,968	401,951

187. The appropriations from gross profit for the last two years were—

	1925. £E.	1926. £E.
Interest charges	100,074	122,469
Pensions, &c.	17,494	18,452
Special reserves	—	6,097
Capital improvements ...	130,000	211,950

The total increase in public receipts over 1925 was £E. 213,519.

188. The passenger traffic on the railway has decreased slightly from £E. 311,390 to £E. 300,577, and the number of passenger journeys from 552,567 to 551,408. These decreases are attributable to the completion of work in connection with the Sennar Dam and canalisation in the Gezira.

189. Goods traffic (after excluding stone traffic in connection with the Sennar Dam) shows a satisfactory increase. The tonnage carried in 1926 was 411,647 and the receipts £E. 1,110,082, as compared with 377,174 tons and £E. 925,994 for the previous year, showing an increase of 20 per cent. in revenue.

190. The receipts from the Kassala line, which in 1925 were included in the figures for the first time, have increased from £E. 73,187 to £E. 82,427. This is very satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that the cotton crop handled in 1926 was small.

191. The following tables give details of the tonnage of the principal exports and imports (excluding Government tonnage) during the last five years :—

——	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Exports—					
Total	108,669	114,869	120,796	111,370	128,741
Charcoal	1,352	149	26	253	120
Cotton ginned	3,462	4,541	5,429	4,734	20,872
Cotton unginned (for ginning at Port Sudan)	510	594	2,242	5,421	4,366
Cotton-seed	6,428	7,577	11,843	9,208	41,780
Dates	2,003	1,505	1,976	998	865
Dom-nuts	97	325	2,020	5,200	6,616
Dura	60,314	52,892	47,032	34,779	2,234
Ground-nuts	2,946	7,325	11,553	10,907	8,318
Gum	14,867	23,375	21,448	18,721	23,118
Hides	644	704	742	1,038	1,210
Simsim	10,301	10,326	9,491	10,587	11,907

N.B.—The above figures represent tonnage of commodities consigned to different ports and they therefore include any commodities consigned for local consumption at the ports.

——	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Imports—					
Total	53,509	58,946	82,576	94,268	124,232
Cement	4,072	3,472	6,977	7,874	6,443
Cotton stuffs	3,355	4,317	4,042	5,138	4,693
Dura	...	...	...	...	16,632
Petroleum	1,518	1,955	2,407	3,752	3,775
Salt	10,048	7,789	9,107	9,120	10,416
Soap	1,180	1,519	2,017	2,215	1,763
Sugar	9,108	9,526	12,382	17,520	20,961
Tea	781	1,291	1,338	1,627	1,992
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	444	443	421	413	390

192. With regard to exports, it will be seen that the tonnage of cotton and cotton-seed has increased by 246 per cent. The embargo on the export of dura was continued throughout the year, while 16,632 tons of foreign dura were imported to maintain supplies in the country. The export of ground-nuts was slightly less than in 1925, but gum and simsim show a satisfactory increase. Apart from dura, the import figures remain much the same as in 1925. The most noticeable feature is the steady increase in the import of sugar, which in 1925 was 5,138 tons more than in 1924, and in 1926 3,441 tons more than the preceding year. The improvement in cattle export experienced in 1925 was not maintained in 1926, the figures being: cattle 16,674, sheep 24,519, as compared with 19,723 and 38,076 respectively during 1925.

193. No important alteration in rates was made during the year, but reduced through-rates for ginned cotton from the Belgian Congo from Rejaf to Port Sudan were brought into operation. The average receipts per ton lifted (excluding the Sennar Dam traffic) increased from £E. 2·455 m/ms. to £E. 2·697 m/ms. The average earnings per ton-mile also increased from 1·427*d.* to 1·591*d.*

Port Sudan.

194. The masonry work on the two new coal quays on Quarantine Island was completed during the year, and the erection of the four new coal transporters supplied for these quays is well in hand. The small extension to the main quays is also progressing satisfactorily and the adaption of the east temporary quays to provide better berthing facilities will be proceeded with in the near future. Applications for space on Quarantine Island for the storage of petroleum and oil in bulk have been received from various oil companies. The questions of the allocations of sites and facilities for mooring oil tankers and discharging and loading cargoes of petroleum, &c., in bulk or as packed goods are receiving attention. The question of the construction of further quays has been postponed until the relief afforded by the completion of the new quays has been fully experienced.

195. Four lighters and a new harbour tug are on order. The number of vessels using the port continues to increase. In 1926, 825 ships, with a total international tonnage of 3,578,367, entered as compared with 786 vessels of 3,174,500 international tonnage during 1925.

196. The total tonnage handled on the quays has increased by 12 per cent. from 873,619 tons in 1925 to 980,497 tons in 1926. The total quantity of cargo landed and shipped (including bunker coal and oil fuel) increased from 504,099 tons to 539,814 tons. The tonnage of exports and imports from ship to quay and *vice versâ* (excluding bunker coal and oil fuel) increased by 37,436 and 12,167 respectively.

Steamers.

197. The steamer services south of Khartum have again had a successful year. The figures for the past three years being :—

	1924. £E.	1925. £E.	1926. £E.
Receipts ...	167,992	184,456	199,562
Expenditure ...	146,762	143,148	157,706
Net revenue ...	21,230	41,308	41,856

198. Passenger receipts increased by £E. 2,208, receipts from hire of craft and from mails were less by £E. 1,404 and animals by £E. 723, but receipts from goods traffic increased by £E. 16,385. The tonnage handled increased by 4,208 tons, practically the whole of which was on the Rejaf service, proving that the traffic with the Belgian Congo viâ Port Sudan is steadily increasing. The receipts from the Halfa–Shellah Reach fell slightly from £E. 66,103 to £E. 61,822 and the net revenue from £E. 23,157 to £E. 20,006. The expenditure was £E. 1,130 less than 1925. There is a very slight loss on the Dongola Reach steamer service.

Mechanical Transport.

199. The mechanical transport service on the Rejaf–Aba road has been maintained. Eight new Thornycroft 6-wheel lorries with 2-wheel trailers have been sent up to replace old lorries and have worked satisfactorily. Owing to the contemplated move from Rejaf to Juba, the provision of proper workshop facilities, offices, &c., for this branch has been delayed, but now that the move has been definitely decided upon the construction of the necessary buildings will be put in hand. A new mechanical transport service running on the Tonga–Talodi road was inaugurated in December in order to bring out cotton, &c., from the interior of the Nuba Mountains Province to the river and to transport the material for the new ginning factories for Talodi and Kadugli. The fleet consists of ten Thornycroft lorries and trailers similar to those supplied for the Rejaf–Aba road, a 100-h.p. "Hathi" tractor with trailers and two Ford lorries.

200. In the experimental section various types of vehicles have been tested as to their capabilities for work in this country. Half-track lorries have not proved a success, and a much improved design is necessary before vehicles so fitted can be regarded as having any degree of reliability. It is clear that such vehicles must be designed as a whole—it seems that it is not feasible to design track mechanism as an accessory to be fitted to standard lorries.

201. The conclusion arrived at as a result of the tests is that, of the types of vehicles now available, the 6-wheel lorry appears to be the most suitable for use in this country, and, as indicated above, the 6-wheel Thornycroft lorries which have been obtained have proved very satisfactory.

202. Experiments with cars fitted with a charcoal gas producer have been continued during the year with encouraging results.

Extension of the Railway to Gedaref.

203. During the summer the final negotiations for a loan to be guaranteed by His Majesty's Treasury under the Trades Facilities

Act for railway development and other Government purposes in the Sudan were concluded, and the extension of railway from Kassala to Gedaref was commenced on the 14th December, 1926. The orders for the necessary permanent way material, rolling-stock, &c., required were placed in England in August and September, but considerable delay in delivery is being experienced owing to the recent industrial disturbances in Great Britain.

204. This extension of the railway necessitates the construction of a steel girder bridge 1,100 feet long over the River Atbara at Abu Deleig, and a contract for this bridge has been entered into with Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co. (Limited). It is hoped to complete the bridge by June 1928. In the meantime, in order to permit work on railhead to be continued next winter, a temporary bridge will be built. It is expected that the line will reach Gedaref before the end of 1928.

205. Two survey parties are conducting surveys of possible railway routes in the Nuba Mountains Province between Rahad and Talodi.

Posts and Telegraphs.

206. The authorised establishment of this department was 1,281 in 1926, as compared with 1,197 in 1925; the actual strength on the 31st December, 1926, was 1,254, against 1,161 the previous year. Out of forty-seven vacancies filled thirty-five are occupied by boys educated in Sudan schools.

207. The director reports a further increase in revenue, the total being £E. 142,206, as against £E. 133,535 last year. The chief items responsible for this increase were telegrams transmitted by Sudan Government departments and provinces, and the rent of telephones in the Gezira area following the completion of the construction work of the Gezira telephone system. Expenditure totalled £E. 187,949, as against £E. 180,387 in 1925. This increase was due to normal advances in pay to staff and to increased salaries and maintenance charges in connection with the Gezira telephonic scheme. Fresh credits amounting to £E. 27,696 were opened during 1926, of which £E. 13,803 were assigned to the construction of new land-lines, £E. 6,234 for improvements in wireless communications and £E. 4,500 for underground cable work in Khartum and Omdurman.

208. Permanent post and telegraph offices were opened during the year at Abu Zabbad, Aroma and Kadugli.

209. A detailed inspection of the duties, records, accommodation, &c., of nearly all the post and telegraph offices open throughout the year has been carried out. The effect of this inspection work, which it had been impossible to undertake in the past years owing to lack of staff, is already evident. The duties of the various post and telegraph offices are now being carried out with greater efficiency and fewer irregularities, and control generally has been considerably strengthened. All wireless stations were inspected by British technical officials during the course of the year.

210. A full programme of building and maintenance work on the province offices has been carried through, and the work on the new General Post Office building in Khartum, begun in October, is now well in hand and should be completed before the close of 1927.

211. The normal mail services were maintained throughout the year. An accelerated and more frequent mail service between the Sudan and the East African Dependencies has been provided for by an arrangement made for direct despatch of closed mails between Port Sudan and Mombasa, which reduces the time taken in transmission by at least five days, as compared with the former circulation viâ the Nile Valley and Port Sudan.

212. Provision has been made for the acceleration of internal mails between certain stations, by giving contracts to motor owners for carrying the mails. A great saving of time is thereby effected and chances of loss by robbery or climatic conditions greatly diminished.

213. The estimated number of postal packets (excluding parcels) dealt with in 1926 was 18,194,207, an increase of 1,638,619, or 9·08 per cent., as compared with 1925. The increase was general, except in the case of letters and postcards despatched to and received from Egypt, which again showed a small decrease—due possibly to the general depression of trade. The number of items dealt with constitutes a record in the history of this Administration. A comparative statement of the number of postal packets (excluding parcels) dealt with during the past six years is given below to illustrate the marked and continuous growth of traffic :—

—	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Ordinary ...	12,364,040	12,648,766	13,634,868	15,524,262	15,991,014	17,623,685
Registered ...	460,320	482,825	477,614	536,604	564,574	570,522
Total ...	12,824,360	13,131,591	14,112,482	16,060,866	16,555,588	18,194,207

214. The following figures giving the estimated number of postal packets (excluding parcels) dealt with at three important stages in the history of the Sudan are interesting as marking the rapid expansion in the volume of postal traffic handled since the war.

Year.	Number of items (excluding parcels).
1913 (pre-war)	7,284,759
1919 (post-war)	7,429,542
1926	18,194,207

It will be seen that the number of items dealt with has increased by 10,764,665, or 144·9 per cent., since 1919.

215. The number of money orders issued and paid in 1926 was 343,427, compared with 324,737 in 1925—an increase of 18,690. The aggregate *value* of the remittances dealt with in 1926 was £E. 3,331,919, as against £E. 3,480,301 in 1925—a decrease of

£E. 148,382. The revenue earned from commission on money orders amounted to £E. 9,145, a decrease of £E. 389 compared with 1925. The money orders exchanged in the Sudan decreased by £E. 38,844, attributable partly to trade depression and to the failure of rain crops in the northern and central Sudan, and partly to the increasing use of banking facilities in the more important towns.

216. The total number of parcels dealt with in 1926 was 255,000, as against 272,018 in 1925—a decrease of 17,018, or 6·2 per cent. The receipts amounted to £E. 19,252, as against 19,792 in 1925—a decrease of £E. 540, or 2·7 per cent. A marked decrease of over 13,000 in the number of parcels received from Egypt, and of approximately 3,000 in the case of parcels received from foreign countries other than Great Britain and India can only be attributed to unsatisfactory trade conditions.

217. Savings bank facilities were extended to Gebeit during the year, thus making twenty-three offices open to the service. During the year 1,010 deposit accounts were opened and 564 closed, as against 837 accounts opened and 649 closed in 1925. The number of deposits during the year was 6,885 and the amount deposited £E. 24,973. During the same period 3,696 withdrawals, amounting to £E. 22,708, were made. At the close of 1926 there were 3,580 depositors with £E. 29.041·224 m/ms. standing to their credit, or an average balance of £E. 8·112 m/ms. per depositor, as compared with an average balance of £E. 8·543 m/ms. per depositor in 1925.

Telegraphs.

218. The reconstruction of the Port Sudan–Atbara line, for which funds were allotted last year, was completed in July. The construction of the El Obeid–Talodi line—referred to in my annual report for 1925, p. 60—was continued, and Abu Zabbad reached on the 25th January, 1926. A post and telegraph office was opened at Abu Zabbad on the 28th January, in a building provided by the Merkaz, pending the erection of a permanent office by the Public Works Department. On account of Patrol S.Z6, which took place in the vicinity of Gebel Gulud, south of Dilling, the construction of the Abu Zabbad–Dilling section became of urgent importance, and it was found necessary to employ 200 camels to assist the departmental mechanical transport with the distribution of line stores. Dilling was reached on the 17th February and a land-line telegraph office opened at that station on the 18th February, 1926. The Nahud–Fasher line was thoroughly overhauled under the supervision of a British telegraph inspector, and general maintenance work was carried out on the Medani–Gedaref–Kassala line, as well as section of line in the Upper Nile, Mongalla and Bahr-el-Ghazal Provinces. The cable at Melut, which has for some time been unsatisfactory, will be replaced by a new one early in 1927.

219. A final agreement with regard to the Port Sudan–Jeddah cable has been arrived at and has been signed by all the parties concerned. The maintenance of this cable now devolves on the Eastern Telegraph Company.

220. In 1926, 762,325 telegrams were dealt with, as compared with 751,985 in 1925, an increase of 1·3 per cent. The increase was, however, mainly due to the numbers of official telegrams sent, those from private sources, inland and foreign, showing a decrease, which may be attributed to a reduction in the service to Eritrea and the interruption of the Port Sudan–Jeddah service. The total revenue earned in 1926 was £E. 71,302, as against £E. 75,788 in 1925.

Wireless Service.

221. No new stations have been opened during the year, but improvements have been made in the stations at Wau, Rosaires, Kassala and El Obeid, and improved apparatus is now on its way for installation at Malakal, El Fasher and Nyala. An effort has been made to mobilise the existing portable wireless sets in readiness for use on patrols. The number of inland messages transmitted was 21,518 as against 20,902 in 1925, producing a revenue of £E. 4,142 as against £E. 3,810. The Port Sudan radio transmitted 6,938 messages for ship service as compared with 7,405 in 1925. In addition to this it dealt with 3,772 messages to and from Jeddah as against 862 last year. This large increase was due to the interruption of the Port Sudan–Jeddah cable service during the latter part of the year.

Telephone Service.

222. During the year 100 additional subscribers' line positions were added to existing operators' sections at the Khartum central exchange, and 135 additional connections to the Town Exchange were made. 8·45 miles of underground cable with a wire mileage of 933 miles were laid in Khartum and Port Sudan. Further extensions have taken place in the Gezira canalised area and thirty-three telephone connections, 15 miles of wire, and 19 miles of pole work were added.

223. Subscribers numbered 795 as against 746 last year, and the total revenue rose from £E. 5,960 to £E. 7,223.

Chapter VII.—Agriculture and Forests.

224. The scanty rainfall in the central and northern provinces in 1925, and the unusually small area of riverain land inundated by the Nile, resulted in poor grain and forage crops, particularly in the north. Returns from the provinces show a total area of cultivation of 1,651,658 feddans as compared with 2,229,616 feddans in the previous season, and grain crops especially were restricted, that of dura falling by some 30 per cent.

225. Prices for agricultural produce rose considerably, with the notable exception of cotton, particularly of the American type.

226. The following table shows the areas and estimated yields of the principal food crops excluding the provinces of Darfur, Upper

Nile, Mongalla and Bahr-el-Ghazal, for which precise statistics are not available :—

Crop.	Area in feddans.	Estimated yield in tons.
Dura	771,053	254,500
Dukhn	451,993	113,000
Simsim	97,488	24,400
Earth-nuts	36,753	16,200
Wheat	26,759	17,100
Maize	20,279	13,000
Barley	8,085	4,800
Beans	2,930	1,500
	1,415,340	444,500

227. Of export crops cotton is the most important and the following table gives the approximate areas in feddans under cotton during the last five years :—

Year.	Rainland.	Artificial irrigation.	Flood land.	Total.
1921–22	3,304	24,058	56,911	84,273
1922–23	6,147	25,064	30,377	61,588
1923–24	13,524	40,037	58,105	111,666
1924–25	67,553	47,512	52,169	167,234
1925–26	47,130	106,681	30,453	184,264

228. In the above table the areas in the Upper Nile, Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla Provinces are included for the season 1925–26 for the first time and the progress of the cotton industry, which is a new development in the southern provinces, is shown by the following return of cotton production expressed in kantars of 315 rotls seed cotton :—

Province.	Season 1924–25.	Season 1925–26.	Season 1926–27 (estimated).
Upper Nile	1,308	3,160	4,000
Nuba Mountains	202	3,710	9,500
Mongalla	268	5,075	6,500
Bahr-el-Ghazal	75	1,529	2,500
Totals	1,853	13,474	22,500

229. As the primitive inhabitants of these districts become accustomed to cotton cultivation, and further means of transport and ginning factories are provided, the output of rain-grown cotton should increase steadily and the industry become established. The decrease in the total area of rain cotton is chiefly in the central provinces and is the result of poor rains and the high price and

scarcity of dura. In these areas the output of cotton must always be liable to fluctuation owing to the uncertain rainfall. The decrease in area of cotton grown on flooded land is due to the poor floods of the Baraka at Tokar and of the Gash at Kassala.

230. The past season is notable for the introduction of cultivation by gravitation water from the Sennar Dam and the area of cotton irrigated by artificial means has been vastly increased. In the previous season of 1924–25 the maximum area of 21,616 feddans under pump irrigation in the Gezira was reached; with the substitution of gravitation water for pump water the area was increased to 80,031 feddans. The increase of area coincided with an excellent cotton season. Though the usual pests were present they did not at any time cause serious damage and the yield per feddan reached the high figure of 4·79 kantars, as compared with 2·21 in the previous year, and the total crop amounted to 384,104 kantars (seed cotton). (Equivalent figures in 100 rotls lint are 4·85, 2·34, 388,140.)

231. In addition to the cotton, 36,286 feddans of dura and 8,990 of lubia were irrigated in the Gezira scheme and provided a very valuable addition to the grain and fodder production of the district. In the season 1926–27 the area has been increased to 100,000 feddans of cotton and the crop is very promising though somewhat later than that of the previous season. An area of dura and lubia equal to that of 1925 has also been irrigated.

232. In Tokar district the Baraka flood was abnormally small. Some 31,000 feddans were flooded, but much of this was so lightly watered that only an area of about 10,000 feddans of cotton was established. The total crop was 10,077 kantars (of 315 rotls seed cotton) and the total value realised at Tokar market was £E. 53,727. In the new season prospects are better and it is anticipated that the crop will be from two to three times the size of the 1925–26 crop.

233. As at Tokar, the Gash flood was very disappointing and the area watered and planted with cotton only amounted to 11,400 feddans. The total crop was 22,547 kantars (of 315 rotls seed cotton).

234. The Gezira Research Farm has been extended by the addition of 80 feddans. The experiments in general have been the same as in the previous season, but the increased area has allowed further replication of plots and has facilitated the fallowing of areas and the sowing of cotton in blocks. In the main the results of experiments in previous seasons have been confirmed. This is particularly so in the case of improvement of yields by feeding stock on the land and by the use of nitrogenous manures. The benefit of a change of seed was further demonstrated by the resulting strong healthy seedlings, which showed good powers of resistance to "Black Arm" infection. In this connection, seed introduced from Tokar was particularly successful. A practical application of this result will be made in the season 1927–28, when a large area of the Gezira will be sown with Tokar seed selected from the present season's crop.

235. The seven Government pumping schemes in Berber and

Dongola Provinces had a very successful agricultural season. The following areas were irrigated and cropped :—

	Feddans.
Cotton	5,038
Food crops	4,857
Forage crops	1,106
	11,001

In addition, water was supplied to some 520 feddans of date gardens in Dongola Province. The cotton crop produced 22,430 kantars (of 315 rotls) or an average of 4·45 kantars per feddan. The highest yield was at Gendettu, which gave 5·16 kantars per feddan, and was closely followed by Nuri, which passed the 5 kantar average for the second year in succession. In a year of low flood and poor rains these schemes were of great benefit to the inhabitants of Dongola and Berber Provinces and enabled them to keep alive a large number of "sagia" cattle and other animals which must otherwise have perished.

Forestry.

236. In certain areas, and especially around the bigger towns, the domestic consumption of wood for fuel and other purposes is a heavy drain on the accessible forests. On the White Nile the forest resources are severely taxed by the fuel supply to steamers, a situation which will, however, be considerably eased in the future by a continued increase in the use of coal and oil fuel. These problems are being studied and during the past two or three years an attempt has been made to reafforest certain areas. The tree selected was sunt (*Acacia arabica*) which grows naturally in the northern reaches of the White Nile and on the Blue Nile, and here fair success in artificial regeneration has been attained. In the south, however, sunt does not thrive to the same extent and search is now being made for a more suitable tree. In the Fung Province plantations of neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and enderab (*Cordia Abyssinica*) were started and show considerable promise.

Gum.

237. Although prices were still lower than in 1925, the export of gum reached the unprecedented figure of 22,744 tons, with a value of £E. 844,198. Light rains followed by poor grain crops forced the natives to exploit their gum resources to the maximum while climatic conditions were favourable to a good yield.

238. In comparison with 1925, quantities sold in Kordofan markets from Darfur Province decreased, while those from the Nuba Mountains Province show a slight increase. The increase in output from Kordofan Province was considerable. In the Fung, White Nile, Upper Nile and Kassala Provinces sales of Hashab gum increased, those in Kassala Province being the highest recorded. In the Fung and Kassala Provinces the output of Talh gum decreased slightly, chiefly owing to the low prices offered for it.

239. The problem of a further increase in the output of gum is receiving attention, and progress may be recorded in improved methods of regeneration, fire protection and marketing. Research on the physiological aspect of gum production has produced interesting preliminary results, which point to the production being a natural phenomenon and not due, as was at one time supposed, to the agency of bacteria.

Fuel.

240. All the requirements of steamers on the White Nile and Blue Nile were met, though on the White Nile an exceptionally high river caused some difficulty owing to the flooding of the bridges over the Khors, which at some stations separate the forest from the main river. Government departments in Khartum were supplied with wood cut, by contract, on the white Nile. The total amount supplied to steamers and Government departments was 113,520 cubic metres. A further amount of 85,000 cubic metres was cut by licensees, royalties on which were £E. 8,553.

Timber.

241. Owing to the difficulties of extraction, transport and seasoning the use of indigenous timbers is confined almost entirely to building material in the round for local use and boat making. Royalty collected on timber cut by licensees amounted to £E. 1,630. As in previous years, a small quantity of mahogany was brought into Khartum from the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province and disposed of locally for furniture making.

Minor Produce.

242. The export of dom nuts, chiefly from Kassala and the Red Sea Provinces, increased considerably, the output being 6,000 tons, of a value of £E. 51,000. In Kassala Province the trade was reorganised and the issue of licences and control of picking areas delegated to the omdas and sheikhs, with satisfactory results.

243. The export trade in charcoal and garad (sunt pods) decreased slightly. Amounts and values were, respectively, charcoal 254 tons, value £E. 2,548, and garad 1,092 tons, value £E. 9,209.

Chapter VIII.—Veterinary.

244. The scarcity of grazing and water consequent on the poor rainfall of 1925 led to the congregation of large numbers of cattle in certain of the more favoured areas and produced conditions not only favouring the spread of disease but conducive to causing a high mortality. In consequence, heavy losses were recorded among cattle in 1926. These losses were mainly due to rinderpest, and although the mortality from this disease was greater than in 1924 or 1925, it was less than in 1922 or 1923. Over 23,000 doses of anti-rinderpest serum were used in the localities visited by this disease.

245. The position in regard to contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia showed a marked improvement on previous years, and this is attributed to the use of an effective and safe vaccine against the disease, as well as to closer co-operation between the tribal authorities and the veterinary staff in dealing with outbreaks. Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease occurred, but did not assume serious proportions at any time. It is gratifying to note that only one case of bovine tuberculosis has come under notice in the past three years.

246. Losses in camels, as in previous years, were mainly due to trypanosomiasis and mange. Experiments carried out by the Veterinary Research staff in the treatment of trypanosomiasis in army and police camels with "Nagonal" have been most successful, and it is hoped that the mortality from this disease in these animals will be considerably reduced in the near future.

247. Owing to the comparatively small rainfall, losses from horse-sickness were less than usual, but there was an increase in the number of deaths from epizootic lymphangitis and ulcerative cellulitis in horses and mules.

248. A serious outbreak of rabies occurred in Kordofan in January and February, but, owing to the prompt action that was taken to destroy all dogs which were not kept under proper control in the infected areas, in addition to those which were infected or suspected of being infected with the disease, the outbreak was suppressed by the end of March.

249. Export of cattle, camels and sheep declined owing to a decreased demand in Egypt, and fewer hides were exported. On the other hand the number of skins shipped is the highest hitherto recorded.

250. Thirteen Arab stallions and one English thoroughbred stallion were added to the Government stud during the period under review and the horse-breeding operations which are being carried out in Darfur and Kordofan Provinces have progressed considerably.

Chapter IX.—Justice.

Criminal Courts.

251. The number of persons convicted by summary courts during 1926 was 29,046. This is an increase of over 5,000 on the figure (24,017) for the twelve months under review in last year's report. The provinces in which the increase is most marked are Bahr-el-Ghazal 1,079, Khartum 1,547, Kordofan 1,462 and Fung 677. The number of persons convicted by non-summary courts slightly decreased from 3,363 to 3,157. In the Bahr-el-Ghazal the decrease is 396, in the Blue Nile 82, and in Darfur 86. Kordofan shows an increase of 165, Kassala 120 and the White Nile 91.

252. The number of convictions for crimes of violence was 397 as compared with 407, made up of murder 76 as against 67,

culpable homicide not amounting to murder 47 as against 62, attempts at murder or culpable homicide 11 as against 16, hurt or grievous hurt 263 as against 262. The death sentence was carried out upon 33 persons. Forty-three persons were convicted of robbery, brigandage and kindred offences. Twelve of these were convicted in Darfur, 8 in Kassala, 7 in the Blue Nile, and 6 in Kordofan. Fines in criminal cases have increased from £E. 8,374 to £E. 9,807.

253. It is perhaps too early yet to say what effect chief courts in the southern provinces and courts acting under the powers of Nomad Sheikhs Ordinance elsewhere have had in relieving the ordinary criminal courts of cases of minor gravity. Statistics of the cases dealt with by these courts would be of very great value. There have been appointed 257 native magistrates for the purpose of sitting as members of major and minor courts. These magistrates continue to render services of marked utility.

Civil Courts.

254. Civil suits have increased in number from 12,033 to 13,127. The provinces with the largest number of civil suits are: Khartum, 4,050, of which 317 were in the Hight Court; the Blue Nile, 2,533; Berber, 1.673; and Kordofan, 1,116. No very marked increase or decrease is noticeable in any province. Civil suit fees have increased from £E. 6,807 to £E. 7,818; the total fees in civil suits and executions have increased from £E. 8,392 to £E. 9,686.

255. In the Court of Appeal 78 applications were disposed of during the year as compared with 64 in the previous year; 6 remained pending at the end of the year; 24 appeals were actually heard as against 19; 50 applications for leave to appeal were refused. High Court appeals have increased from 129 to 148, of which 12 remained pending at the end of the year; 84 appeals were decided as against 36: in 60 cases application for leave to appeal was refused. A digest of the decisions of the Court of Appeal was compiled by Mr. Dun. late Chief Justice, and Mr. Francoudi, Advocate before the Sudan Courts, and printed.

Bankruptcies.

256. During the year thirteen petitions were presented, of which ten were debtors' and three creditors' petitions. The total liabilities were £E. 17,898. Two petitions were withdrawn before adjudication; in one case a composition after bankruptcy was effected; three cases were disposed of and seven remain pending. Experience has shown that the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1926, needs amendment in certain respects, and it is hoped to take the matter in hand at an early date.

Legislation.

257. Fifteen ordinances have been passed in 1926, as follows :—

(1.) The Customs (Duty on Alcoholic Liquids) Amendment Ordinance, 1926.
(2.) The Cotton Ordinance, 1926.
(3.) The Repeal of War Enactments Ordinance, 1926.
(4.) The Foodstuffs and Necessaries Ordinance, 1926.
(5.) The Non-Mahometan Marriage Ordinance, 1926.
(6.) The Governor-General's Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.
(7.) The Contraband Goods Ordinance, 1926.
(8.) The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.
(9.) The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1926.
(10.) The Revision Ordinance, 1926.
(11.) The Animals Export and Import (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.
(12.) The Traders' Licence and Taxation of Business Profits Ordinance, 1926.
(13.) The Partnership Registration Ordinance, 1926.
(14.) The Passports and Permits Ordinance, 1926.
(15.) The Posts and Telegraphs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.

In addition, a revised edition of the "Laws of the Sudan from 1899 to the 1st June, 1926, has been compiled and printed.

Administration of Estates.

258. Statistics of estates of deceased non-Mahometans which, having no representative in the country, were administered by the Administrator-General, are shown in the following table :—

	Number of Estates.	Estimated Gross Value of Assets. £E.
Estates under administration and uncompleted on January 1st, 1926	21	6,225
New estates taken under administration during the period covered by report	36	5,189
	57	11,414
Administration completed during the period under review and balances paid to heirs and next of kin ...	17	2,190
Administrations completed and balances transferred to unclaimed deposits	8	26
	25	2,216

	Number of Estates.	Estimated Gross Value of Assets. £E.
Estates administered and awaiting to be claimed by next-of-kin ...	4	294
Estates in which the administration is still in hand	31	9,159
	35	9,453

	£E.
High Court fees paid on completed estates during the period covered by this report	39·320 m/ms.
Fees charged and collected by the Administrator-General upon completed estates during the period covered by this report	67·170 m/ms.

Non-Mahometan Marriages.

259. The Non-Mahometan Marriage Ordinance, 1926, came into force on the 15th May, 1926, repealing and consolidating the Sudan Non-Mahometan Ordinances, 1906–19, with some slight amendments. During the period covered by this report the following marriages have been entered in the Central Marriage Registers :—

	Under the 1906–19 Ordinance.	Under the 1926 Ordinance.
(i.) Marriages performed by district registrars	Nil	Nil
(ii.) Marriages celebrated by religious communities under the ordinance	5	2
(iii.) Marriages celebrated by Ministers of excepted religious communities and registered under the provisions of the Excepted Communities Marriage Regulations :—		
Roman Catholics	3	1
Greek Orthodox	30	16
Coptic Orthodox	13	5
Greek Catholics	3	3
Israelites	3	1
Total	57	28

260. On the 1st March, 1916, the system of registration of marriages by district registrars and the compulsory notification of marriages celebrated by religious communities was instituted. The table below shows the total number of marriages registered in the

Central Registers from the inception of this system until the end of 1926 :—

Name of Province.	Number of Marriages reported from March 1, 1916, to Dec. 31, 1926.
Bahr-el-Ghazal	4
Berber	59
Blue Nile	32
Darfur	2
Dongola	10
Fung	2
Halfa	9
Kassala	7
Khartum	361
Kordofan	18
Mongalla	Nil
Nuba Mountains	2
Red Sea	45
Upper Nile	10
White Nile	2
Total	563

Land Registration and Land Settlement.

261. The number of deeds registered in 1926 was 6,202 as compared with 5,530 in the period covered by last year's report. Fees have increased from £E. 6,980 to £E. 8,247. The Registrar-General considers these results encouraging, but considers that if the Land Registry is to attain the maximum of efficiency his staff will have to be largely augmented. There are large arrears to be made up, and the staff is so small that one office in which 55,000 plots are registered is in charge of two junior clerks.

Registration of Companies.

262. The following is a statement showing the number of companies registered during the year and the fees paid in respect thereof :—

Number of companies registered ...	6
Total amount of nominal capital ...	£E. 81,250
Total fees collected	£E. 270

Mahometan Law Courts.

263. There has again been an increase in the number of cases in these courts from 12,848 to 13,592. In the course of the year 6,508 estates were before the courts. Fees amounted to £E. 6,729 as against £E. 6,607. These figures do not include the very valuable work which is done by legal assistants on behalf of Kadis in connection with land settlements. The general increase in the

work is attributed to the fact that more circuits have been made by the Kadis. There were 193 appeals to the High Mahkama which is the highest total ever recorded. Of these, judgment was reversed in 85 cases and varied in 13. There were 16,818 contracts of marriages issued as compared with 19,396; 8,917 certificates of divorce as compared with 8,779.

Chapter X.—Sub-Department of Lands.

264. Transactions of the usual kind in Government lands continue to increase in number and have now reached a very large total. Many applications to take up Government land for purposes of pump-irrigation schemes were received during the early part of 1926 when the price of cotton acted as an inducement to embark upon this kind of project. The director, however, reports a marked falling off in the number of such applications for the present year (1927).

265. At Port Sudan a considerable amount of preparatory work was done with a view to the preparation of a revised "Scheme and Record" applicable to that town. No radical change in the policy governing the disposal of Government land at Port Sudan is involved in the scheme or contemplated for the immediate future and the main feature to be noted is the repression of the disposal of freehold in the town. There is an increasing demand for sites for business premises in the better quarters and also for warehouses in the area reserved for their erection in the area known as East Town. Disposal of land in East Town on lease is being watched with interest in view of the fact that the total amount of land there available for disposal in reasonable proximity to the quays is strictly limited. In South Town a scheme is contemplated for the allotment of sites for petroleum installations. The scheme has been approved in principle and details have been under discussion with the controllers of the larger petroleum interests who contemplate establishing themselves in this part of the town.

266. Gold mining operations attended by a very fair measure of success continue to be carried out at Gabeit in the Red Sea Province.

267. An increasing number of grants of sites to mission stations throughout the Southern Sudan is noted, and during the period covered by the report the nominal annual rental of £E. 1 formerly payable to Government in respect of each site has been reduced to P.T. 10 per annum.

Concessions and Projects Committee.

268. Many applications for concessions of various kinds were dealt with, but few of them were of any real importance and fewer still were promising from the point of view of the future commercial development of the country. Both the Ras Rawaya and Darra Salt Field Concessions have been extended until 1931.

Chapter XI.—Education.

269. Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education, retired on pension and was succeeded at the end of the year by Mr. E. N. Corbyn, recently Governor of the Fung Province. In the interval from August to December the affairs of the Department were ably administered by Mr. N. R. Udal, the assistant director.

270. The following table shows the number of pupils attending schools under the control of the Department in 1925 and 1926 :—

	1925.		1926.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Gordon College Higher School...	1	235	1	303
Primary schools	10	1,101	10	1,153
Elementary vernacular schools (kuttabs)	94	7,852	88	8,196
Subsidised native Koran schools (khalwas)	161	5,444	293	8,422
Instructional workshops ...	3	307	3	332
Girls' training college ...	1	28	1	22
Girls' elementary schools ...	8	397	10	555
Total		15,364		18,983

Gordon College Higher School.

271. The temporary military occupation of a portion of the Gordon College building terminated in November 1925, so that in the year 1926 the higher school has been able to come back into full possession of its share of the building. This was the more fortunate in that the numbers were increased from 235 in 1925 to 303 in 1926, by the addition of a second class in the third year, and a fourth class in the first year. The numbers were made up of 203 pupils of Sudanese Arab origin, 66 of mixed Egyptian and Sudanese Arab origin, 18 Berberines (native of Halfa Province), 13 Sudanese negroids, and 3 Somalis. The three latter were sent from Somaliland by Sir Geoffrey Archer in 1920 to be trained for eventual return to Government service in their own country. Of the 303 pupils in the higher school, 250 were boarders.

272. The prefects have continued to do valuable work in assisting the house tutors and officers, and the general discipline and tone of the college have been excellent, and have reflected the greatest credit on Mr. N. R. Udal and his staff.

273. The first of the three teachers sent for additional training at the American University of Beirut has returned, and took up work in September in the Clerical Training Section, where his acquisition of specialist knowledge in shorthand and typewriting should assist in improving the results obtained. Special additional progress has been made also in the Accountancy Training Section, with the valuable practical co-operation of the Finance Department. The

Teachers' Training Section was revived in September under a newly-appointed British expert in pedagogy. The section for training kadis for the Mahometan Law Courts completed the training of a class of pupils, and a new class has been formed. Seven pupils from the Scientific Section completed their course and were admitted to the Kitchener School of Medicine. The Engineering Section continues to produce excellent results.

Primary Education.

274. The ten primary schools which were in existence in 1926 are situated at Khartum, Omdurman, Wad Medani, Rufaa, El Obeid, Berber, Atbara, Wadi Halfa, Suakin and El Dueim. There have been no new developments of policy in connection with these, but the numbers of pupils and standard aimed at have been fully maintained. Entry into the primary schools from the elementary vernacular schools is by examination, and there is now considerable competition for entry. Entry into the Gordon College Higher School from the primary schools is also by examination of pupils from the primary schools at the end of the primary course.

Elementary Education.

275. It was explained in last year's report that the three-year programme adopted in 1925 provided for a small reduction in the number of higher elementary vernacular schools (kuttabs) by closing some of the least well-attended of them, and a large extension in the number of subsidised Koran schools (khalwas), which give instruction in elementary secular subjects and are under regular inspection. These are schools which already exist in the villages as a result of unassisted native effort under native "fikis." The first process in subsidising such schools is to raise the standard of teaching of the "fikis" by voluntary attendance at a training course. Subsequent inspection is directed to assuring that the improvement is maintained and increased. This development has proved a fruitful field of endeavour for several senior native members of the teaching staff as heads of "fikis" training courses and local inspectors of such schools.

Technical Education.

276. The instructional workshops under the direct control of the Department have been two, as in 1925, of which one, a carpentry workshop, is at the Gordon College and the other, a masonry and carpentry workshop, is at Omdurman. The former had 123 boys in training, 81 borders and 42 day boys. The latter had 120 boys, of whom 40 were boarders and 80 were day boys. These workshops, together with those at Atbara, in connection with the Sudan Government Railways, for fitters, blacksmiths and riveters, continue to produce satisfactory results.

Scouting.

277. The continued success and expansion of the movement in 1926 has owed much to the zeal and energy of Mr. N. R. Udal as deputy commissioner and Mr. E. A. V. de Candole as assistant commissioner. There have been six troops in Khartum and three in Omdurman, and, in addition, troops at Atbara, Berber, Rufaa, Wad Medani, El Obeid and El Dueim.

Female Education.

278. The new buildings provided in Omdurman for the Girls' Training College on a site within a portion of the enclosure of what was once the Khalifa's house, have proved very suitable. Satisfactory accommodation has been provided not only for the training college, but for the principal, Miss J. D. Evans, and assistant principal, whose work has continued to produce highly successful results. The number of native girl teachers now turned out from the training college has been sufficient to staff ten other girls' schools in 1926, as against seven in 1925. These schools are situated at Omdurman (four schools), Kamlin, Rufaa, El Obeid, El Dueim, Merowe and Dongola. The standard of teaching acquired by the teachers at the training college is maintained by inspections of the schools by the principal.

Education in the Southern Sudan.

279. Important proposals put forward by the late director before his departure commenced to bear fruit in the appointment in the latter half of the year of an Inspector of Southern Education for work among the non-Mahometan negroid tribes of the south. Under arrangements dating from early after the reoccupation of the Sudan, various missionary bodies had established schools among these tribes, but there had hitherto been no Government inspection and co-ordination of their efforts. The new inspector, Mr. N. B. Hunter, was first sent to Uganda to study the methods adopted there, among a population partially somewhat similar, under Mr. E. R. J. Hussey, who was seconded from this Department in 1924 to take up the post of Director of Education in Uganda. In December Mr. Hussey accompanied Mr. Hunter on his return to the Sudan, and made a tour in Mongalla and Bahr-el-Ghazal Provinces preparatory to presenting further recommendations on the questions involved.

Geological Survey.

280. Mr. G. W. Grabham, Government geologist, and Mr. G. V. Colchester have travelled extensively during the year and in the intervals have been engaged in the compilation of records collected in the field, and in dealing with the various questions referred to the Geological Survey Office. Activities in drilling for water in various parts of the country have increased the arrival of specimens for urgent report, and in the selection of sites for drilling or digging

for water advice has been given at many places, notably in Darfur, Kordofan, Kassala and Red Sea Provinces. Advice was given also in connection with the sites for the new bridges at Ghorashi on the River Atbara, and between Khartum and Omdurman, and in finding a stone suitable for the proposed Jebel Aulia Dam. Progress has been made with the geological map of the Sudan.

The Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories.

281. Major R. G. Archibald, D.S.O., the director, reports that progress has been made in all the sections. The closer co-operation referred to in last year's report between the laboratories and the other departments of the Government has been maintained, and has resulted in a great increase in the number of examinations carried out. The branch laboratories in the provinces, in the Gezira near Wad Medani, and at Atbara, and at Gendettu have also done much useful work. The first of these comprises chemical and entomological sections, the second a chemical section for railway work, the third an entomological section.

Bacteriological Section.

282. The routine examinations totalled 7,510, being 2,000 more than in 1925. Considerable use was made of vaccines prepared by the section, 20,000 doses being provided for protective inoculation against an epidemic of enteric fever in Omdurman, and 12,000 doses for prophylactic inoculation against cholera of pilgrims proceeding from the Sudan to Mecca, and 2,000 doses of vaccine against an outbreak of rabies. Anti-bilharzia investigations and investigations on plant pathology and soil bacteriology, mainly in relation to black arm disease of the cotton plant, have been other important features of the year's work. Valuable assistance in combating the epidemic of relapsing fever in Western Darfur was rendered by Dr. Riding, who established that the disease was louse-borne.

Chemical Section.

283. Samples examined by the Government chemist, Dr. A. J. Joseph, and his staff totalled 21,538, of which 4,336 were dealt with at Khartum, 16,548 in the Gezira, and 654 at Atbara. This was a large increase over previous years. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation assisted by the appointment of an additional chemist at the Gezira Laboratory. In addition to the more usual work, advice has been given on various special problems, such as the Government contracts for supply of sugar and petrol, the analysis of alcoholic liquors at the high temperature of this country, the standardisation of the liquid rotl, and various special problems of the Railway Department.

Entomological Section.

284. The Government entomologist, Mr. H. H. King, and his staff have had in hand various important investigations, among

which may be mentioned investigations into cotton thrips, termites, and locusts in the Gezira, Sudan bollworm and pink bollworm at Gendettu, and red stainer bugs in Fung and Nuba Mountains Provinces. A survey has been made of the species and distribution of ticks in the Sudan, and work has been proceeding on means of protection of timber against white ants.

Antiquities Service.

285. Mr. Fr. Addison, Conservator of Antiquities, reports that there have been only minor activities in 1926. Dr. Reisner has been too much occupied with his work at the Giza Pyramids to resume work at Semna, and Mr. Wellcome's concession at Jebel Moya has expired.

286. Repairs were carried out at the Temples of Nagaa with a view to their better conservation, and some slight repairs also at Musawwarat-el-Sufra. A small temple or shrine, hitherto unrecorded, was found between Nagaa and Musawwarat. Some previously unknown ancient sites were found by Mr. H. C. Jackson in Berber Province. The known sites in Dongola and Halfa Provinces were inspected by the curator.

287. A guide has been printed for the use of visitors to the museum at the Gordon College.

Natural History Museum.

288. Mr. H. H. King, the curator, reports a marked increase to the number of visitors to the museum in 1926. Two additional show-cases were obtained for the room containing the exhibit of mounted birds, and a very pleasing system of electric lighting was installed. Both this museum and the antiquities museum will shortly have to be moved out of the Gordon College to release space for additional class-rooms required by the growth of the college.

Missions: Church Missionary Society.

289. The Church Missionary Society has two missions at work, one in the Northern Sudan and the other in the south. In the Northern Sudan the hospital at Omdurman continues its excellent work. During the current year there were 23,438 out-patients and 749 in-patients, and 387 operations were performed. In addition to the normal work of the hospital, the care of lepers, destitute and blind, and relief of the poor, has been undertaken by the hospital staff. The increase in the number of child-patients is an encouraging sign of the value of the child-welfare-centre work begun last year. At this centre there are some 600 to 700 attendances monthly. The prejudice of the women against coming into hospital themselves, or bringing in their children, is gradually being broken down.

290. The educational work among girls, essential to the social advance of the country, has been well maintained. Schools exist at Omdurman, Wad Medani, Khartum and Atbara. Eight hundred and thirty-eight pupils passed through these schools during the year. The schools form centres in the life of the native communities in

various ways, according to local conditions. The girls, after leaving school, continue their association with the mission through meetings of "old scholars" held from time to time with the object of interesting them in social service. Through the work of higher education in the primary school, and through the training course for teachers, the schools are now almost entirely staffed by teachers born, bred and educated in the Sudan.

291. In the Southern Sudan the work of the missions has grown to such an extent as to necessitate the creation of a new diocese with Bishop Kitching as its first bishop. The diocese includes the two southern provinces of the Sudan and the northern portion of the Uganda Protectorate.

292. The work in the provinces of Mongalla and the Bahr-el-Ghazal is medical and educational, as well as evangelistic. During the period under review 434 boys and twenty-seven girls were undergoing training in the mission schools at Juba, Yei, Lui and elsewhere.

293. The work of these schools is a very keenly appreciated factor in the education and civilisation of these people, and the medical side is no less important. The Governor of Mongalla Province pays a specially warm tribute to the excellent work carried on at Lui by Dr. and Mrs. Fraser. In the course of the year they have treated in the new memorial hospital no fewer than 4,373 patients, many of whom were cases involving major operations.

294. Negotiations are in progress for moving the mission station at Juba to a site south-east of Yei near the border of the Belgian Congo, and it is probable that this move will be carried out during the course of next year.

Sudan United Mission.

295. This mission has two stations, one at Heiban and one at Abri, both in the Nuba Mountains Province. Mr. MacDiarmid, the head of the mission, reports good progress during the year. At Heiban the school is now a flourishing concern with a regular attendance of some fifty boys. Besides instructing these boys in reading and writing, efforts are being made to teach them useful trades, such as carpentry and blacksmithing, and a full equipment of tools has been purchased by the mission with this object.

296. During the year 3,772 patients were treated, of whom the large majority were Nuba from the hills. There is a great deal of sickness in these communities, and much work remains to be done in diminishing the infant mortality, which is very high.

297. The station at Abri is of more recent foundation and difficulties are being experienced in securing a regular attendance at the school. The excellent medical work done last year is, however, being continued.

298. The Governor of the Nuba Mountains Province expresses his unqualified admiration for the work, both educational and medical, which is being carried out by these stations in the face of great difficulties, of which the greatest is the ignorance and apathy of the people themselves.

American Mission.

299. Besides the stations of Khartum, Khartum North and Omdurman, the mission has stations at Wadi Halfa, Kareima, Wad Medani and Port Sudan in the north and at Doleib Hill and Nasser in the south. The school at Atbara was closed at the end of May, but will probably be reopened shortly.

300. The work in the Northern Sudan is almost entirely educational, and at Khartum, Khartum North and Omdurman special attention is paid to work among the women. In each of these three towns there is a lady missionary with helpers giving instruction to the women and girls in their homes. In the southern stations work is carried on by a staff of missionaries with native trained helpers, and, in addition, considerable medical work is carried on at Nasser, where a staff consisting of a doctor and a registered nurse is available. The industrial school at Gereif is still doing good work.

301. The general secretary reports good progress during the year. He gives the total of children undergoing training at the various centres at 1,292, the slight decrease on last year's total being due in part to the temporary closing down of the school at Atbara.

Catholic Mission.

302. This mission records a year of successful work in its nine mission stations in the Bahr-el-Ghazal. Two new stations have been opened, and the welcome accorded to the Fathers at Kajok by the Dinka is a source of considerable gratification. Mongalla Province shows equally encouraging results. Mission schools in both Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla Provinces continue to prosper, and supply industrial and literary instruction to increasing numbers. In the Upper Nile the Shilluk tribe still presents a difficult problem, and the efforts of the mission are not particularly welcome, but among the Nuers at Yoynyang some success has been achieved.

Chapter XII.—Public Health.

303. The health of the Sudan as a whole has been satisfactory. The rains over the northern and central Sudan were below the average and, in consequence, the general incidence of malaria has been correspondingly low. A serious epidemic of relapsing fever, causing a very heavy mortality, broke out in Darfur in September 1926. This is referred to under the heading of "Epidemics."

304. Considerable further progress has been made with the policy of training subordinate medical staff, with the training of midwives, with founding dispensaries in centres of population which are out of reach of the provincial hospitals, and in dealing with certain endemic diseases.

Epidemic Diseases: Relapsing Fever.

305. Cases of relapsing fever were reported to have occurred in the Kebkebia district on the 11th September, 1926, and a similar

outbreak was reported from the Nyala district on the 12th September. Immediate investigation was instituted, and it soon became clear that the whole of the northern Zalingei area was heavily infected and that, in addition, serious outbreaks, with a very heavy case mortality, estimated at 60 to 80 per cent., were present in the Kebkebia and Nyala districts. The louse-borne character of the disease was confirmed by a pathologist on the 7th December, 1926.

Typhoid.

306. The typhoid rate was somewhat increased throughout the Sudan generally. Epidemic outbreaks occurred in Malakal and Omdurman. That at Malakal broke out in April amongst the troops of No. 1 Company Equatorial Battalion. Thirty cases came under treatment, two of whom were civilians. Blood agglutination tests were positive in five cases only. Over 5,000 anti-typhoid inoculations were carried out. Sporadic cases of typhoid fever occurred in Khartum, Khartum North and Omdurman from May to October. In October a mild epidemic began in Omdurman. The case mortality rate in positive agglutination cases was 9 per cent. 1,122 prophylactic inoculations were carried out. The sources of these two epidemics were not discovered.

Influenza.

307. An epidemic of this disease occurred in Berber Province in January, February and March 1926. Of the British population at Atbara fifty-one persons came under treatment. A large number of natives were affected, but the death rate was not heavy.

Rabies.

308. In October 1925 rabies was reported as epidemic among dogs in Kordofan Province. One policeman who had been bitten by a rabid dog one month previously was admitted to El Obeid civil hospital and died of rabies the next day. Sixty-nine other cases were reported as having been bitten by suspected dogs and received prophylactic treatment. Every effort was made to destroy all ownerless or neglected dogs, and movement of dogs by train or ferry was prohibited. The epidemic died down in the course of the summer.

Endemic Disease : Bilharziasis.

309. Twenty-one new bilharzia centres have been opened during the year under consideration and 13,752 cases have completed treatment for bilharzia. These cases were distributed as follows :—

Kordofan, in hospitals and bilharzia centres	4,657
Dongola, ,, ,, ,,	5,245
Kosti Quarantine	61
Wadi Halfa Quarantine	1,429
Various hospitals and dispensaries	2,360
	13,752

310. It has been possible for the first time to keep a medical inspector in Dongola Province throughout the year. During this time 5,300 cases of bilharzia were treated. The first organised anti-bilharzial work in Kordofan was begun in December 1924, but continued supervision did not become possible until last autumn. A medical inspector was posted to the White Nile Province in February 1926, but no subordinate staff was available. He found that the whole riverain population from Gebelein to the north of Aba Island was heavily infected with both rectal and urinary bilharzia. In the case of one village, 90 per cent. of the population was infected, and in many villages 60–80 per cent. were infected. From Geteina to the north of Aba Island only rectal bilharzia was found, the infection at Kawa and Um Gerr was found to be 100 per cent. of those examined. The effect of the disease on the population in this area was very marked. The endemic area in Berber Province extends from Bouga to Abu Hamed and from Abu Hamed to the Dongola border. The population in the latter area is very sparse and it is not proposed to undertake work in this area at present.

311. In addition to these definite areas, scattered cases occur as far south as Atbara. The endemic area from Bouga to Abu Hamed is very heavily infected. It is hoped to be able to make a start in this area with organised combined anti-mollusc and treatment work early in 1927.

312. During November and December a survey of the male adults and of many of the children in the irrigated area of the Blue Nile Province was made. It is estimated that only about 80 per cent. of the adult male population was examined, although efforts were made to examine all males. A total of 2,329 males and 3,988 children were examined. Of these, 921 cases were found infected, of whom 314 were natives of other parts of the Sudan and 531 were West African immigrants. These infected cases were treated. In November 1926 compulsory examination and, if necessary, treatment of all fourth-class passengers travelling eastwards, and of all persons crossing the Kosti bridge eastwards, was inaugurated in order to protect the irrigated area from infection. In December, 2,349 cases were examined. Of these sixty-one were found to be infected and were treated. During the year 6,379 Egyptian labourers were examined for bilharzia at Halfa. Of these 254 were rejected and returned to Egypt, 1,076 were treated at Wadi Halfa and 6,125 were allowed to proceed to their place of destination.

Yaws.

313. This disease is endemic in the southern part of the Upper Nile Province and in the low-lying riverain part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province and of Mongalla Province. It is probably responsible in these districts for more inefficiency, crippling, deformity and suffering than all other diseases together. An intensive campaign is being organised to deal with this disease.

Kala-Azar.

314. Kala-Azar is endemic in the Blue Nile Valley south of Hag Abdullah (*i.e.*, Sennar Merkaz and the Fung Province) and in the Dinder and Rahad Valleys. Twenty-four cases of this disease were reported in the course of the year.

Tuberculosis.

315. The following are the figures for admissions to hospitals for tuberculosis over the last ten years. The table also shows the percentage for admissions for tuberculosis to the total admissions for each year of this period :—

Year.	Admissions.	Percentage.
1917	194	1·5
1918	216	1·5
1919	191	1·4
1920	219	1·3
1921	220	1·35
1922	234	1·38
1923	251	1·46
1924	290	1·46
1925	292	1·46
1926	371	1·71

It will be seen that while there is no evidence of a progressive relative increase, there is a definite relative increase during the year under consideration.

316. The medical inspector, Upper Nile Province, reports that pulmonary tuberculosis is very prevalent among the Shilluk. This is the negroid tribe that has come most in contact with the outside world; it is also the most sedentary of these tribes. Beyond this observation there is at present nothing to indicate increased spread of this disease among the people of the Southern Sudan.

Dysentery.

317. The following are the figures for admission to hospitals for dysentery over the last six years. The table also shows the percentage of admissions for dysentery to the total admissions for each year of this period :—

	1921.	1922.	1293.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Amoebic	477	390	504	605	483	543
Bacillary	89	48	27	111	326	271
Total	566	438	531	716	809	814
Percentage of all admissions	3·0	2·4	2·9	3·6	4·3	3·7

Leprosy: Northern and Central Area.

318. The incidence of leprosy in the Northern and Central Sudan is small. In a population of 1,830,000 there are only 285 known cases, *i.e.*, less than 1 in 6,000. There is no evidence to suggest that leprosy is on the increase in this northern area and the position is in no way alarming. There is a central leper hospital at Omdurman where forty-two lepers are under treatment. Some of these are from Khartum, and the rest from various central and northern provinces. A new leper hospital is in course of construction to replace the present buildings. Accommodation for fifty lepers will be provided. There is also a small leper hospital near Gedaref where fifteen patients from the surrounding districts are under treatment; moreover, in Kordofan Province twenty patients out of a total of 109 notified are under treatment.

Southern Area.

319. In the middle south, *i.e.*, the Nuba Mountains, the Upper Nile Province and the Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, the incidence of leprosy is much higher and the matter becomes one of some importance. A rough estimate gives the number of lepers in the Nuba Mountains Province as between 300 and 400 in a total population of 318.000. This is probably an underestimate. No reliable estimate can be given for the Upper Nile Province and the Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal.

Extreme Southern Area.

320. In the extreme south, *i.e.*, the Southern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla Province, the percentage of lepers to the total population is very much higher, and leprosy here becomes a factor to be reckoned with. There are reported to be 900–1,000 cases in Mongalla Province and a similar number in Bahr-el-Ghazal Province. It is important to avoid any form of compulsory isolation in leper hospitals or leper camps except in certain cases where an infected person by reason of his trade is a danger to the public, or in cases where the feeling of the tribe or community in which the leper lives is definitely in favour of such compulsion. Except in these circumstances compulsion would inevitably lead to concealment of the disease. Proposals have been put forward for instituting leper hospitals at Malakal in the Upper Nile Province, Wau, Rumbek and Aweil in the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and at Yei, Kajo-Kaji and Opari in Mongalla Province. It is essential to avoid any course of action which might lead to concealment of the disease, and it is important by propaganda and otherwise to do all that is possible to encourage early cases of this disease being brought forward for treatment.

General Progress—Subordinate Staff.

321. An increased effort was made to train additional subordinate medical staff—

(i.) To meet the need created by the extension of irrigated areas on the Gezira and at Kassala.

(ii.) To staff newly opened dispensaries.

(iii.) To carry on endemic disease work, and, in particular, work directed against bilharziasis and yaws.

This effort has involved a further heavy drain on the time and energy of the medical staff of the provincial hospitals.

322. In the course of 1926 seven dispensary "hakims" were passed out and appointed to various dispensaries, sixteen sanitary "hakims" were passed out and appointed to smaller dispensaries or to endemic disease centres, and eleven dispensary "hakims" and thirty-three sanitary "hakims" were appointed for training. Thus we now have a total of fifty dispensary "hakims" and thirty-seven sanitary "hakims" at work at dispensaries or endemic disease centres.

Midwifery Training School.

323. The work of this school continues to make steady progress. There are now sixty-five of these trained midwives at work. As the work of the trained women from Omdurman becomes better known, the younger generation of mothers are forgoing the old untrained midwives with their barbarous methods and are employing instead the trained midwives, and, during their six months' training, 267 midwifery cases were delivered by the pupil midwives.

324. It has been decided to start training women from the provinces, and to enable the matron to carry out this work in the provinces, the two four-month courses which were carried out every year were altered to a single course of six months, thus leaving the matron a full two months for her tour in the provinces. At the present moment there are thirty-four trained midwives practising in Khartum and Omdurman and thirty-one practising in the provinces.

Nurses' Training School, Omdurman.

325. Ten probationers were taken on towards the end of 1925, and six during 1926. By the end of 1927, nine nurses should have completed their course of training, and, if they pass out satisfactorily, will be available for work in the provincial hospitals. This work is at present only in an experimental stage, but it is earnestly hoped that it will prove successful.

Wadi Halfa Quarantine.

326. The quarantine season lasted from the beginning of September till the end of January, and the figures given refer to this period. During this time 6,379 labourers passed through the quarantine, when 254 were rejected and repatriated. Of these, forty-two rejections were on account of visible blood in the urine. Of the remainder, 1,065 (17·4 per cent.) had blood in the urine, and 1,076 (17·6 per cent.) had bilharzia ova; 806 were detained at Wadi Halfa until cured, and then sent on to their destinations. One thousand four hundred and six (22·9 per cent.) were found to be suffering from ankylostoma and were treated.

The School of Medicine.

327. The progress made at the school in 1926 was very satisfactory. The work of this year will be fully reported on, together with that of the year 1927, in a separate biennial report to be published early in 1928. A school hostel providing accommodation for forty students has been almost completed and will accommodate the twenty-six students who will be undergoing training at the School of Medicine from the beginning of 1927. The hostel in use up to the end of 1926 was unsuitable and insufficient for this purpose.

Sleeping Sickness.

328. The Principal Medical Officer, Sudan Defence Force, reports that a satisfactory advance has been made in both provinces affected, namely, Mongalla and Bahr-el-Ghazal. The epidemic in Mongalla is finished. Only three cases were found in the year. The Bahr-el-Ghazal Province is being rapidly cleared. Seventy-nine cases were found in Tembura District, one in Yambio and one in the Western District.

329. The following figures indicate the progress made :—

Admissions for the Year ending September 30.

—	Mongalla.			Bahr-el-Ghazal.
	Yei.	Kajo-Kaji.	Nimule.	Source Yubo.
1911	268	...	...	...
1912	140	...	...	...
1913	139	...	...	...
1914	24	...	...	...
1915	17	187	6	...
1916	21	197	14	...
1917	14	95	4	...
1918	32	42	2	255
1919	15	63	8	621
1920	32	54	2	192
1921	24	31	12	656
1922	7	68	35	434
1923	3	5	4	839
1924	...	82	9	276
1925	...	10	9	203
1926	...	3	...	79
	736	837	105	3,555

Total: Mongalla, 1,678 ; Bahr-el-Ghazal, 3,555.

The total number at present under treatment is :—

Yei	49
Kajo-Kaji	172
Nimule	30
Raga	22
Tembura	1,744
Yambio	19
Total	2,036

330. One of the chief difficulties with which the sleeping sickness officials have to contend is the unauthorised movement of people across the Belgian and French frontiers. Chiefs' courts and boundary markets have been installed on the Belgian frontier and should minimise these movements.

331. The success of sleeping sickness work is almost wholly dependent on proper control and settlement of the people in selected places. A certain number of people were directed to move their villages during the year as a precautionary measure, but it is probable that no further compulsory move will be necessary. A large number of these forest dwellers, who normally live in small scattered groups, have been brought into orderly villages adjacent to the roads, and have taken readily to the new conditions.

332. The method of segregation in the settlement at Source Yubo has proved increasingly popular, and over 2,700 people have established themselves there voluntarily, supporting their sick relations.

333. In spite of the eradication and control of the disease in the Sudan, the maintenance of a large staff to detect foci of infection from the heavily infected countries bordering the Sudan must continue.

Chapter XIII.—Provinces.

Bahr-el-Ghazal.

334. The Governor again reports steady progress in this remote and undeveloped region, where the aim of the Administration is limited to the maintenance of order and justice with due regard paid to the conservation of the better elements of native custom. Every opportunity is being taken to build up the authority of the native leaders so as to enable them to take an active part in assisting the Government in its scheme for the welfare of their people. In this connection a policy of devolution of power to native chiefs is being steadily followed. The chiefs' courts, which have been set up in various districts, are performing increasingly valuable functions, and appeals against their decisions are on the decrease.

335. The rains set in late, but fell opportunely for the grain crop, and the harvest promises well. The general condition of the people continues to improve. The sale of cotton is bringing money into certain areas, the use of coin is becoming more widespread, and clothes are more in evidence.

336. As has been pointed out by the Governor in previous reports, the revenue from this province cannot for many years be expected to balance expenditure, but the former will increase as better control is gained over the more outlying people and the natural resources of the country can be exploited.

337. Excellent work has been accomplished by the medical officers of the province throughout the year. A special campaign has been directed against the spread of syphilis, which is now very prevalent in the central and eastern districts. Sleeping sickness

work has also been rigorously carried on and owing to the close control now established over the disease the number of fresh cases reported has decreased to a most encouraging degree. Refugees from the Belgian Congo constitute the chief danger, and meetings at which this aspect of the problem has been discussed have taken place with the Belgian officials in charge of the frontier districts. Reported cases of leprosy show an increase, and a leper camp for children is being started at Yubo as well as a settlement a few miles outside Wau where leprosy treatment will be given.

338. Communications, so essential to administrative advance as well as to commercial development, have been greatly improved, and the Governor reports that 1,700 miles of road are open to lorry traffic.

Berber.

339. The Governor reports that the rains in 1926, although inadequate for the raising of any food crops, were sufficient to relieve the grazing situation to an appreciable extent. The Nile flood was early and above normal, but the crops grown on the flooded areas were marred by a second rise in the river which took place at the beginning of September.

340. The estimated cotton yield constitutes a record for the province and experimental sales held at Shendi and Berber realised good prices. The price of grain rose considerably during the year, reaching its highest level in August. The temporary distress was relieved by the issue of grain loans to nomad Arabs and to the more needy of the sedentary population, and the price of grain has since shown a welcome decrease. The export trade in camels, cattle and sheep, although brisk during the earlier part of the year, fell later owing to the lack of demand in Egypt.

341. Expenditure has been normal and within the budget estimates, while the revenue as estimated in the budget has been realised.

342. The policy of educating the rural population by means of subsidised village schools has been an unqualified success, and the Governor estimates that the number of such schools will be increased to forty-eight during the coming year.

343. A start has been made in the devolution of powers to native authorities and native courts have been established in Berber, Zeidab and other places.

344. Following on investigations made during the early part of the year, a definite campaign against bilharzia has been launched by the medical authorities. This disease has been known to exist for many years in this province and recently the problem of its eradication has been seriously tackled.

Blue Nile Province.

345. The main event of the year was the official opening of the Sennar Dam and the Gezira scheme by his Excellency the High

Commissioner on the 21st January. The Governor reports a satisfactory conclusion to the first season during which irrigation on a large scale has been carried out. The smoothness with which the scheme has worked reflects the greatest credit on both the Irrigation Department and the Gezira Syndicate, and its popularity with the people is assured. They have found that not only do they get increased wealth from the sale of the cotton crop, but that the dura grown on irrigated land is giving them better food supplies than they had before, while the "lubia" is of immense benefit to their animals.

346. In the 1926–27 season the area under cotton is 100,000 feddans, the area under dura and "lubia" being 50,000 feddans of each. It is not likely that last year's crop will be equalled, but a thoroughly satisfactory yield is certain. Labour conditions have been very easy owing to the influx of population from districts which suffered from a scanty rainfall.

347. The 1926 rains were again bad, the rain crops, as assessed, yielding only 215,000 standard ardebs. This apparently shows a small falling off on last year, but there is reason to think that the assessment was rather light and that the actual yield was higher than the assessed yield. The dura in the Gezira scheme is estimated to have produced 200,000 standard ardebs. Bad rains and the fall in the price of American cotton have reduced the rain-grown cotton crop to a negligible figure. There will, however, be some revival should next rains prove more satisfactory, as there are certain lands that with good rains are more suited to cotton than dura, while people attach great importance to any non-food crop which they can sell and so conserve their food resources.

348. The economic position of the province is extremely sound. Even in the outlying districts, where the rains have been bad for two years in succession and where the influence of the Gezira scheme is only indirectly felt, arrears of taxation are negligibe.

349. The general improvement in the material well-being of the population is indicated by a very substantial increase in the quantity of sugar consumed during the period under review. There was an increase of currency in circulation between July 1925, when cultivation on a large scale began under the Gezira scheme and the end of 1926, amounting to approximately £250,000. The building and timber trades have been particularly brisk and an improvement in housing is perhaps the most marked sign of the prosperity prevalent.

350. Dura prices have been high partly as a result of its scarcity, but more owing to the increased purchasing power of the people. It has been possible to limit the rise in price due to this latter cause by the introduction of imported dura, which has been sold by the Government in small quantities in order to keep control of the market.

Darfur.

351. The Governor reports a disappointing year from an agricultural point of view. In the central and northern districts the rains

were almost a complete failure and the price of grain in Fasher has risen considerably in consequence. The gum crop, on the other hand, was above the average, but the output of tobacco, owing to the poor rains and a heavy fall in prices, was disappointing.

352. The scheme inaugurated last year for the purpose of improving the standard of country-bred ponies has proved a success. The horse-owning tribes have taken the greatest interest in the scheme and about 300 horses have been purchased from them for the army during the past few months.

353. The volume of motor traffic throughout the province has shown a very marked increase and some 1,400 miles of road are now cleared and passable for cars.

354. Under the new system of native education, which is likely to prove more popular than that given in Government schools, the Governor reports the opening of sixteen subsidised village schools, in which writing and simple arithmetic are taught as well as the reading and repetition of the Koran.

355. The financial condition of the province is improving, and an increase in revenue, which now more nearly approaches the figure for expenditure, is reported.

356. Relations with the French Administration have remained cordial, and several meetings took place between district commissioners and "commandants de région" at which arrangements for mutual co-operation were made.

357. The administration of Dar Masalit by the Sultan assisted by a British resident continues. In spite of considerable difficulties this experiment in the practical application of the principle of native administration made a definite advance in 1926, and it should serve as a valuable guide in the inauguration of similar schemes in other parts of the country.

358. A very serious epidemic of relapsing fever originating from the west broke out in Darfur towards the end of the year. It is estimated that 10,000 Furs have already succumbed to the disease. In spite of the unflagging efforts on the part of the local medical staff, and the despatch of additional officers from headquarters, the epidemic is not yet under full control. However, the energy and thoroughness with which the campaign has been conducted have done much to localise the outbreaks and render feasible the ultimate extinction of the disease.

Dongola.

359. Mr. A. B. B. Howell succeeded Mr. W. R. G. Bond as Governor during the summer. He reports that the period from September 1925 to the end of 1926 covered a time of scarcity amounting nearly to distress owing to a low Nile in the autumn of 1925. After the 1926 flood, however, the province recovered well, and at the moment there are prospects of a good wheat crop for 1927.

360. No specific relief works were opened, but labour was freely engaged at Merowe, and the opportunity was taken to

complete a number of local works which would otherwise have been postponed.

361. The internal condition of the province was as tranquil as usual, but the peace was somewhat disturbed from outside by a succession of raids by western desert tribesmen, the Bedayat, who crossed in small armed parties from the distant wells of Tura-el-Bedai, viâ Lagia Wells, to the Gaab Wadi behind Dongola, and carried off from there a considerable number of camels belonging to the Kababish tribe. It has been their practice to do this intermittently for many years, but on this occasion five raids took place in the space of eight months, and in the last raid (in June) an Egyptian caravan proceeding southwards to Bir Natrun was attacked, four men were killed and 100 camels stolen. A light car and aeroplane reconnaissance was despatched in August to study the country and investigate the possibilities of undertaking counter-measures against the Bedayat. The car party had difficulty in locating Lagia, and were in considerable straits at one time from lack of water. Eventually, however, the party reached Lagia and returned without further incident. No raids have taken place since, and it is thought that the sight of the car tracks may have acted as a deterrent to the raiders.

362. Village courts have been instituted for the first time in some districts of the province, and seem to have their greatest use in places which are remote from Government stations. If a Government station is close at hand the people seem to prefer to have their cases dealt with by the mamur or district commissioner.

363. The lowness of the Nile flood led to considerable reduction in the tax assessed on crops grown on the islands where the land under cultivation is measured annually. Taxes were collected punctually and without difficulty.

Fung.

364. The Governor reports that owing to the uneven distribution of the rainfall the crops have varied a great deal in different parts of the province. On the whole, the amount of dura harvested came up to the level of previous years, but the rain-grown cotton crop was almost a total failure. Coupled with the recent fall in prices, this year's poor yield of cotton has tended to discourage its cultivation, and the cotton market at Singa has been closed. In addition to this, the yield of gum was below the average, and in consequence money is scarcer than it has been for some years.

365. Rosaires has ceased to be a military station, and the garrison was finally withdrawn to Singa in October.

366. Public health throughout the province has been good. The new dispensary at Abu Sheneina, which was opened at the end of 1925, has done valuable work in the isolation of infectious cases from Abyssinia. The climate from Singa northwards appears to have changed for the worse since the construction of the dam at Makwar. Not only have anti-mosquito measures been rendered more difficult by the stagnation of the river, but the climate generally seems to be less bracing than before.

367. Education through the medium of subsidised village schools has been found to be most popular, and the system is being extended. There are now nine such schools in the province with a total of some 750 pupils. Nine more schools will, it is hoped, be opened during 1927.

368. Public security is normal.

369. The prestige of the leading sheikhs has been increased by the granting of fixed salaries and of powers under the Nomad Sheikhs Ordinance. The triennial revision of the annual tax list has been left entirely in their hands with satisfactory results.

Halfa.

370. The low Nile flood of 1925 had no appreciable ill effect on the agricultural and material welfare of the province, while the flood of 1926 was of good average height, reaching its highest point 8·17 metres at Wadi Halfa on the 14th September.

371. The date crop is the only means of making money open to the local agricultural population, since the other food crops grown are barely sufficient for their own needs. An abundant crop, estimated as being 30 per cent. above that of 1925 was realised, and, though the fruit was small, good prices were obtained. General trade was poor, a special decline being noticeable in the profits of traders working on the Shellal–Halfa reach.

372. Wadi Halfa is becoming an important air station on the route between Cairo and Khartum. Forty-seven aeroplanes landed on the aerodrome on twenty separate occasions during 1926. The flights included those of Sir Alan Cobham to the Cape and back and of the Royal Air Force from Cairo to Kano and from Cairo to the Cape.

373. The lines indicated in last year's report for extension of facilities of medical treatment with special reference to bilharzia and trachoma, and for elementary education through the medium of subsidised village schools, are being closely followed, and satisfactory progress is reported.

374. Village courts were established in Halfa district as a step towards the delegation of administrative and judicial powers to native authorities. These courts, which it is proposed also to establish in other districts in the near future, should relieve the people from the necessity of bringing many petty cases before the Government magistrates and should enable the latter to devote themselves to more important work.

375. Considerable attention has been devoted to the sanitation of Halfa Town. Part of the programme of intended improvements has been carried out and the remainder will shortly be taken in hand.

376. Osman Digna, the famous Dervish leader died at Halfa on the 8th December at the age of about 90.

Kassala.

377. Although the province suffered from the effects of a third bad rain year in succession, a Gash flood of unprecedented volume

partly compensated for the drought. It is estimated that the dura harvest will slightly exceed that of last year. The rain cotton crop of 1925–26 amounted to nearly 8,000 kantars. The fall in price at Gedaref in July, however, discouraged cultivators and this year's yield is only 3,000 kantars. The gum output of 1925–26 reached the unprecedented figure of 60,000 kantars and this year's prospects are equally good. The entire administration of the gum forest is now in the hands of the natives themselves and this measure as well as the improved water facilities for the gum pickers is largely responsible for the continued success of this important industry. The Gash flood has been excellent and the cotton crop for 1926–27 is expected to be double that of last year.

378. The camel-owning section of the population benefited considerably from the sale of camels to Egypt; it is estimated that this trade brought some £E. 50,000 into the province during the year.

379. On the whole, therefore, the condition of the people is good, in spite of the poor rains, and it is only among the inhabitants of Kassala district itself that any serious want is likely to be felt before the next crop can be harvested.

380. The yearly recurrent anxiety regarding the Kassala dura supply will be greatly diminished on the completion of the railway extension from Kassala to Gedaref, which was begun in December 1926.

381. The Kassala Cotton Company have made satisfactory arrangements for improving the water supply in the Gash, and the province authorities have made considerable progress in an extensive programme for improving the water supply in many of the rural districts.

382. The question of the devolution of powers to native authorities has been fully considered and a scheme is being adopted which will give increased remuneration and responsibility to the Nazir of the Shukria tribe and his principal sheikhs.

Khartum.

383. In spite of the abnormal fall in the price of cotton, the area under pump irrigation has again increased and there have now been installed twenty-nine pumps as against last year's total of twenty-seven. In view of the complete failure of the rains, the food crops grown on these irrigated lands have this year proved of special value. Part of the land settlement, for which application was made last year, has been carried out. Rain crops were a complete failure. The seluka crop failed to fulfil expectations. Flushings from the Sennar Dam caused a certain amount of damage, especially to melon crops, and the shaduf crops suffered from a sudden rise of the river in May, which submerged many cultivations. Present prospects are, however, more promising. Various issues of seed loans have again been made.

384. The high price of dura severely affected the town population. In consequence, certain quantities of dura were put on to

the market by Government for sale to those certified as being in straitened circumstances. The effect of this action was the immediate creation of a feeling of security in the knowledge that the situation was being taken in hand by the Government, and that any attempts to raise the price of grain by the formation of a ring would be checked.

385. Trade has been stagnant throughout the year. The bad rains of 1926, coming after a previous year of depression and bringing in their train a high dura price, hit many firms hard. Stocks also depreciated owing to the fall in general values, especially in cotton goods. Merchants complain that there is an entire absence of "movement," but admit that good rains in 1927 would have an immediately exhilarating effect on all trade.

386. The Governor reports little change in his budget. Certain apparent increases in Central Government expenditure and decreases in the municipal revenue are attributable to adjustments and alterations in the allocation of certain items. The general question of the proper allocation of revenue and expenditure as between the municipality and the Central Government is being investigated and it is hoped to settle the matter in time to frame next year's budget in accordance with the decisions taken.

Public Security.

387. Public security has remained normal. There has been an increase in petty theft and petty crime in general, due probably to the high price of grain and to the presence in Khartum of a large number of outside labourers working on the White Nile bridge and other building operations. The standard of police work has again been most satisfactory. The increase in numbers has resulted in increased efficiency, and the men have shown themselves more alert. The motor patrols, which were begun during the year, have proved of great value, especially as regards control of the suburbs of Khartum. Frequent bicycle patrols visiting fixed beats have been instituted with encouraging results.

Prisons.

388. The Central Prison, Khartum North, was taken over by the province on the 1st January, 1926. Certain necessary additions and alterations in the buildings have been taken in hand. The possibility of removing the reformatory for boys, at present included in the prison, to another place is a subject of present investigation, and should this be possible, general accommodation will be substantially increased. There are at present some forty juvenile prisoners. Discipline has been well maintained throughout the year, the warders show increased efficiency, and the convicts themselves have been well behaved. The number of adult prisoners housed (369) is the same as in 1925, and health conditions have been satisfactory. The prison workshops have been conducted with advantage to the administration and to the prisoners themselves, and the carpentry section has turned out some excellent work.

Khartum Central Prison.

389. The numbers in confinement on the 31st December, 1926, were : males, 363 ; females, 6 ; and juveniles, 39.

Kordofan.

390. Mr. E. G. Sarsfield-Hall succeeded Mr. J. D. Craig, O.B.E., in January 1926. He reports a highly satisfactory financial year. Receipts exceeded expenditure by over £E. 127,000, which is the highest surplus hitherto recorded in this province. The gum crop reached the record figure of 33,695 kantars, and a royalty of over £E. 100,000 accrued to the Treasury. Grain and simsim crops are below the average, owing to the failure of the late rains, and relief measures may be called for in the eastern and northern districts. The situation has been eased by the large importation of grain from Southern Darfur and the Nuba Mountains Province. Apart from the export of gum, trade was rendered stagnant by the failure of the grain harvest. Exports of cattle, however, show a slight increase on last year's figure.

391. Many motor roads have been improved, especially those leading southwards into the Nuba Mountains Province, with a consequent increase in motor traffic. The mails to Fasher and Talodi are now carried by car from El Obeid.

392. The deep-bore wells proved of great value in alleviating the water shortage caused by rain scarcity. Several new bores have been made in El Obeid during the year and a scheme for water installation has received financial approval. Experiments have been conducted in the excavation and deepening of natural reservoirs in the hope of improving the surface water suply in El Obeid and elsewhere.

393. The personal enmity between the nazirs of the Kababish and Kawahla was responsible for a high state of tension between these two tribes towards the end of the year, which resulted in open acts of violence and wholesale thefts of animals. Strong measures were taken to make the nazirs realise their responsibilities in respect of the control of their tribes. Cases of affray and kindred misdemeanours were sternly dealt with, restitution of stolen animals was enforced, and it is hoped that the peace now prevailing will be maintained.

394. The police have been reorganised and their efficiency increased by the adoption of a more systematic method for the training of recruits. A number of the older men have been retired on pension.

395. The accommodation in the civil hospitals at El Obeid and Nahud has been increased. New dispensaries have been built at Muglad, Rahad and Um Ruaba, and two travelling hospitals for bilharzia work have been on tour. During the year 113,297 outpatients were treated.

396. The annual horse shows at Muglad and Abu Zabad were held as usual. Although the administrative value of these shows is undiminished, a decline in the standard of the animals themselves

was noticed, and in order to improve this a scheme for encouraging breeding from selected mares and Government sires has been instituted.

Mongalla.

397. Following on an average grain year in 1925 the unusually good rains of 1926 give excellent prospects except in the Didinga Hills. The estimated output of cotton shows a large increase on that of last year, and a ginnery is being erected at Torit to cope with the 1926–27 Latuka crop.

398. Efforts have been made to popularise the growing of coffee. One hundred kantars were brought in from the Acholi Hills and a quantity of seed has been issued.

399. Communications throughout the province are considerably improved. New roads have been constructed connecting Rejaf with the Latuka district and the Taposa country, and a steel bridge has been erected over the Kinnetti River.

400. During the period under review 127 and 153 travellers passed through the province going to and from the Belgian Congo and Kenya respectively. A temporary furnished rest-house with arrangements for food has been erected at Rejaf for their accommodation, and the question of erecting a proper hotel is under consideration.

401. A meeting was held locally in March at which my predecessor discussed the future educational policy of the province with the Bishop of Uganda and Archdeacon Kitching (now Bishop of the Upper Nile), the Director of Education, Uganda Government, Archdeacon Shaw and the province authorities.

402. Apart from a satisfactory increase in the poll tax, there is little change in the budget estimates.

403. Following on representations made by Kenya and Uganda regarding raids into their territory by the Taposa tribe, preparations were made in the autumn for the occupation of the Taposa country. A force consisting of two companies of the Equatorial Corps advanced into the country towards the end of December. It is hoped that this expedition will have the added result of checking the illicit traffic in arms and ammunition now being carried on in that region by outlaws of Abyssinian and Swahili origin.

404. Public security has remained undisturbed. The chief courts have continued to do valuable work, and their activities have resulted in a marked diminution in crime.

405. The Governor views the spread of leprosy in this province with great concern; statistics show a marked increase in the incidence of the disease, and a scheme for checking further spread is now under consideration by the medical authorities.

406. A memorial hospital has been built at Lui in the Moru country by Dr. and Mrs. Fraser of the Church Missionary Society, and 4,373 patients were treated there in the course of the year, many being cases involving major operations.

407. The campaign against sleeping sickness has been prosecuted with gratifying success; the spread of infection from the

Belgian Congo and from Uganda continues to be the main source of danger.

408. The erection of further permanent Government buildings has been held in abeyance pending a decision regarding the future site of the province headquarters.

Nuba Mountains.

409. The Governor reports that the crops on the whole have been above the average in the southern and western parts of the province, while in the east the poor rainfalls occasioned a certain scarcity. The rain-grown cotton crop in the districts of Talodi and Kadugli was good; in Dilling district it failed, despite plentiful rain.

410. Communications, especially motor roads, have been further improved. Permanent bridges have been completed over Khor Hamra and Khor Sungikai, and now only a bridge over Khor Habilla is required to complete an all-weather motor road from El Obeid to Dilling. Telegraphic communication has been extended from El Obeid to Dilling and Kadugli, and a further extension to Talodi from Kadugli is shortly to be undertaken.

411. The condition of the people generally has never been better. With the exception of the trouble at Jebel Gulud early in the year, to which reference will be made later, there have been no signs of unrest among either the Arab or the Nuba populations. Food has been plentiful, and the sale of the cotton crop has added greatly to the wealth of the people, notably in the southern districts.

412. A subsidised village school has been opened at Eliri in place of the Government school there, which has been closed down. The school at Kadugli is popular, and the increase in the number of boys attending it has necessitated application for a third teacher.

413. Although it still falls short of the expenditure, the revenue of the province shows a slight increase, and trade generally has improved.

414. In January certain Nuba of Jebel Gulud, probably instigated by discharged soldiers, murdered the local chief. Military operations were undertaken in order to secure punishment of the offenders, and in the space of a month all the ringleaders had been either killed or captured. No further trouble is anticipated. Public security in other parts of the province has been well maintained.

415. The facilities for medical treatment to the natives have been further extended. In addition to the good work done by the mission stations at Heiban and Abri, the new Government civil hospitals at Dilling and Kadugli have made a good start and native assistant medical officers are to be stationed at Eliri and Delami.

416. The devolution of powers to native chiefs is being carried on *pari passu* with their capacity to assume their proper responsibilities, and they have been encouraged to assist more actively in the task of enforcing the quarantine regulations for cattle in infected areas.

Red Sea.

417. Owing to an exceptionally poor flood in the Tokar Delta the 1925–26 cotton crop was a very light one. The prospects for 1926–27, however, are much improved, as the flood has averaged well and great care has been taken in thinning and weeding the crop. A plentiful supply of labour has been available at all times, and the increased eagerness of the nomadic population to grow their own grain crops, as noted last year, continues, despite the discouraging conditions occasioned by a scanty rainfall.

418. The province generally has experienced somewhat straitened circumstances owing to the poor Tokar flood of 1925 and to the lack of rain. This depression was naturally felt most severely at Tokar, since in Port Sudan there was never a lack of employment owing to the increase in the port trade and to the noticeable activity in building and other development in the town.

419. The Governor calls attention to the beneficial effect of the famine relief works and of the import of Arabian and Indian grain, free of duty, in alleviating the distress in certain areas caused by the failure of the harvest.

420. Financially the year has been disappointing and the receipts show a deficit of £E. 20,000 on the estimates, due in great part to the failure of the cotton crop, which in normal years supplies a large part of the revenue.

421. The progress of education in the province generally is hampered by the aloofness and distrust characteristic of the nomads and hillmen. Arrangements have been made to subsidise six village schools at Tokar and subsequent advance, though it will of necessity be extremely slow, will be carried on following these lines.

422. The policy of educating the leading Sheikhs in the conduct of their own tribal affairs and in the settlement of petty cases is being actively continued. Periodic meetings of tribal leaders are held at which matters of present interest and questions of future policy are discussed, and signs are not lacking that some of the stronger and more enlightened Sheikhs are beginning to practice that exercise of authority, which is at once their right and their obligation.

423. Public security throughout the province has been good, although the scarcity of food is some parts led to an increase in the number of cases of felonious camel slaughtering. Owing to an increase in the duties allotted to them on the quays and elsewhere the establishment of police has been augmented, and the standard of recruits has been raised by the improved conditions of service and the inauguration of a pension scheme.

424. A small asylum for the temporary accommodation of slaves manumitted by His Britannic Majesty's agent and consul in Jeddah has been opened at Port Sudan. Since July, twenty-nine males and ten females have passed through and have either been handed over to friends and relatives or provided with opportunities for gaining a livelihood in agricultural settlements.

425. The steady increase in importance of Port Sudan as a trading centre, as shown by the numbers and tonnage of ships

calling there, has been maintained by additional improvements, notably the erection of new coal transporters on the south quays.

426. The province assumed the administration of the Port Sudan Central Prison on the 1st January, 1926. The new organisation has worked smoothly, particular attention has been paid to the training of warders and prison discipline has been excellent. The majority of offences were committed by recidivists, but were mostly of a minor nature. There were no cases of concerted insubordination and the general improvement is highly creditable to the superintendent. Prison labour has been employed to great advantage, especially in the quarries, and the revenue produced thereby exceeds that of any previous year. The upkeep of roads in Port Sudan is undertaken by convict labour, and labour has been supplied to the sanitary authorities. General health has been good, and the daily average of sick has fallen from 2·1 per cent. in 1925 to 1·7 per cent. in 1926. There has been no outbreak of contagious disease. The number of prisoners (all male) was increased from 283 in 1925 to 360 in 1926.

Port Sudan Central Prison.

427. In confinement on the 31st December, 1926 : males, 360; females, nil.

Discharge, admission and death during 1926 : Discharged, 62; admitted, 142; died, 3.

Upper Nile.

428. Mr. C. A. Willis, O.B.E., succeeded Mr. K. C. P. Struve as Governor towards the end of the year.

429. The harvest was an average one. The grain crop showed a slight decrease on last year and although the output of cotton was more than doubled, a really good yield was prevented by the extremely uneven distribution of the rains.

430. A number of small markets have been established during the year, at which the Dinker cultivator is able to get ready cash for his produce instead of being compelled to accept some totally inadequate article in exchange under the old principle of barter. The general production of grain and cotton for sale and export has been much encouraged by the receipt of cash payments, as these enable the people to pay off their taxes without the necessity of parting with their much-prized cattle.

431. The attitude of the people towards education is on the whole one of indifference verging on dislike. The posts, however, open to boys who can read and write are still restricted to those of clerks for chiefs' courts, chiefs' police, assistant medical officers and interpreters.

432. The lack of markets, poor communications, and the shortage of cash make it impossible to obtain more than a nominal tax from a large proportion of the population, and receipts still fall considerably short of expenditure.

433. The future of native administration in this province turns on the extent of the use to which chiefs' courts and chiefs' police can be put. These courts are now working in most parts of the province, but they still seem to depend largely on the support and personal authority of the district commissioner and will require close supervision for some time before they can be trusted not to misuse their authority. Progress will necessarily be slow, but the Governor has every hope that by adherence to the present policy the chiefs will be induced to take a real part in the administration of their people.

434. More Government police as well as chiefs' police have been enlisted and public security, in spite of isolated attacks on Government servants, has improved on the whole.

435. The hospital ship and the hospital at Malakal have done excellent work throughout the year, and the greatest credit is due to the medical inspectors for the zeal and industry with which they have carried out a work, the value of which, from an administrative point of view, it is difficult to overestimate.

White Nile.

436. Mr. A. G. Pawson, who recently succeeded Mr. W. Nicholls as Governor, reports very poor rains except in certain parts of the southern district. This has resulted in an almost complete failure of the rain-grown crops which, following on last year's unsatisfactory harvest, has led to conditions of distress in the central and northern districts. Heavy remissions in taxation have been made, relief works on a moderate scale are being undertaken and grain has been imported for issue to such as are indigent and unable to earn a daily wage.

437. The rain-grown cotton crop was a failure, and the Governor has expressed a doubt as to whether the rainfall, at any rate of the northern half of the province, is sufficient for this crop in a normal year. As far as the southern district was concerned, the situation was saved by a good sesame crop, and an exceptionally large output of gum, of which, despite the drop in price, large quantities were sold in the auction markets at Tendelti and Gebelein. This factor has enabled the districts concerned to avoid the accumulation of arrears of taxation which in the north have been the corollary of the two years of drought.

438. It has been found necessary to remit the whole of the animal tax for the two northern districts for 1926, and proposals have been put forward for a lowering of the animal tax rates throughout the province as a result of the reduced market value of the animals themselves.

439. The administration of the Powers of Nomad Sheikhs Ordinance has been eminently successful. The prestige of the tribal chiefs is being gradually re-established and most, at any rate, of the minor disputes are now settled by them without reference to the District Commissioner.

440. In spite of conditions nearly approaching famine which were prevalent in some parts of the province, the Governor reports

no increase in crime, and definite steps have been taken to prevent the slave running from the Abyssinian border which is still occasionally attempted by the Seleim Baggara of the Southern District.

441. A medical survey during the summer revealed the fact that a very large proportion of the population were suffering from bilharzia. A campaign is now being carried on against this disease, and arrangements are being carried out for the treatment of all the inhabitants of the larger villages and for the destruction of the snails which act as the host for the bilharzia germ. The presence of British medical officers in the province in connection with the bilharzia campaign has resulted in a very marked improvement in medical and sanitary conditions generally throughout the districts in which they have been working.

Chapter XIV.—Game Preservation.

442. The revenue from sales of licences, fees on animals killed, &c., amounted to £E. 6,714, against an expenditure of £E. 4,290 on the Department and Zoological Gardens. Returns of game killed received during the year show a total of 2,618 head of game killed by 277 rifles. The game warden made several protracted tours, and has been in close touch with the province authorities. Satisfactory progress has been made in the general control of hunting by visitors and natives, and regulations have been brought into force for the control of elephant hunting by natives.

443. During the year 50,844 people visited the Zoological Gardens. Several new cages were erected and sundry other improvements made through the generosity of the visitors. A consignment of animals and birds, namely, one pair of giraffes, one pair of oryx, three whale-headed storks, three marabou, three greater bustard and three crowned cranes, was sold to the London Zoological Gardens in June 1926, and was sent to London in charge of one of the officials of the Department. Another consignment of one pair of giraffes and one whale-headed stork was sold to the National Zoological Gardens, Washington. A species of red duiker was discovered and declared by the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, to be a new race.

444. The game warden visited the ibex reserves in the Red Sea hills and it was decided to recommend the opening of several of these reserves.

445. A new sanctuary was recommended for white rhinoceros in Meridi district.

Chapter XV.—Prisons.

446. As mentioned in my last report, the administration of the two central prisons at Khartum North and Port Sudan has been taken over by the Governors of Khartum and the Red Sea Provinces respectively, and the Identification Bureau by the commandant of the Police School at Omdurman. Short reports on these prisons will be found under Khartum Province and Red Sea Province.

Chapter XVI.—Stores and Ordnance.

447. The amalgamation of the Stores Department with the Department of Ordnance Services, referred to in 1925 annual report, was finally completed early in 1926, and the director reports that the working of the department as reorganised is proceeding very smoothly. At the conclusion of the first year's working it was found possible to effect a rearrangement in internal organisation resulting in a reduction of staff by four clerical and one accountant's posts.

448. Prices of all classes of stores maintained a steady level and were not seriously affected by the coal strike. Cotton piece-goods did not fall in sympathy with the general slump in raw cotton, although a fall early in 1927 is anticipated.

449. Owing to shortage of staff, British armourers were not able to visit all provinces during the winter of 1925–26. Early in 1926, however, the establishment was brought up to full strength, and by the end of the winter 1926–27 all arms of military units and provincial civil police will have been inspected.

450. The British-made "Imperial" typewriter was accepted as the standard machine for use in all Government and Sudan Defence Force offices to the exclusion of numerous types of American-made machines formerly in use.

451. There has been a considerable increase in Government printing during the last two years, due to the addition of work required by the Sudan Defence Force. By arrangement with the contractors, the type of all books and forms in general use was left standing, which resulted in an appreciable reduction in composing costs. The Government received £E. 2,396 as its share of the profits for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1926.

452. The sale room which supplies Government officials with travelling and camp equipment, harness, saddlery, &c., sold stores to the value of £E. 7,000.

453. The workshops at Khartum North manufactured numerous articles for Government use, including office furniture, saddlery, equipment, police clothing, tents, vehicles, &c. The net balance for the year after deducting all overhead charges reached the very satisfactory total of £E. 2,645.

Chapter XVII.—Surveys.

Topographical.

454. The director reports good progress during the year in the general mapping of the country, as well as in the carrying out of more detailed surveys. Among the latter he makes special reference to work in the southern provinces. The site of Juba, to which it may be decided to move the headquarters of Mongalla Province, has been surveyed and a minor triangulation was made covering about 1,200 square miles of country in the southern part of the province. A reconnaissance survey of the proposed road from Juba to Nimule has been completed and also of the road from Juba to the

Rejaf–Aba Road. A detailed survey of the channel of the Bahr-el-Jebel between Juba and Rejaf was made and a map showing all rocks and shoals above and below water-level was supplied to the general manager, Sudan Government Railways and Steamers Department.

455. Numerous route sketches and reports were received from officers and officials in the provinces which have proved of great value in keeping the small-scale maps up to date. In the Drafting Section forty new sheets have been drawn ready for reproduction and a total of 148 special maps and drawings were made in addition to the official series.

Cadastral.

456. The maps of the Managil District Land Settlement have been completed. This settlement covers an area of 847,070 feddans, and comprises 1,208 separate plane table sheets. The maps of the contoured areas of the Gezira have again occupied a considerable time. Thirty-seven maps, each showing about 300 spot levels and half-metre contour lines, have been completed. In addition to these, numerous special plans have been produced and supplied to departments and provinces.

Town.

457. Land transactions in Omdurman are slowly decreasing. A sum of £E. 171·450 m/ms was collected on account of title-deeds and numbering of houses. Steady progress has been made with the re-survey of the town. The numerous town plans of the country have been kept up to date and new surveys have been made of Tendelti and Rosaires.

Gezira Contour.

458. Very satisfactory progress has been made in this work. From November 1925 to May 1926 an area of 619,989 feddans was contoured. Work was again commenced in October and up to the 31st December an area of a further 290,000 feddans was close-contoured. In addition, a special contoured survey was made of 19,200 feddans adjoining the original canalised area. The speed and accuracy with which this survey was carried out reflects great credit on Messrs R. C. Hardie and E. K. G. Sweeting. Camels were replaced by motor transport during the season.

459. A rigid survey of the canalised area of the Gezira has been begun. The value of this irrigated land calls for far more accurate calculation of area than has been the custom in the case of other cadastral land. An area of 8,910 feddans has been accurately surveyed.

Printing and Mapping Section.

460. The new flat-bed printing machine erected last year is giving every satisfaction. A new graining machine, to be run off

the same motor as the printing machine, has been installed, but is not yet in working order. During the period under review 18,239 maps were printed. A large number of these maps were printed in colour, a process which was not attempted in this Department until 1925.

Land Settlement.

461. Land settlements and revisions are being made in Berber Province, and in Kawa and Dueim districts of the White Nile Province. A re-survey and placement of boundary marks is being made of the whole of Berber Province. The land settlement on the west bank of the Nile in the White Nile Province is being demarcated.

Provinces.

462. The usual maintenance surveys, &c., took place in the various provinces, the most important being those made in connection with pumping concessions for irrigation in Berber and Dongola Provinces. A survey school, at which thirteen native officials of the Department received instruction in practical survey methods, was held at Sinkat during the hot weather.

Chapter XVIII.—Public Works.

General.

463. Mr. G. N. Loggin, who has succeeded Mr. D. Macfarlane as Director of Works, reports that the year has been one of quiet but steady progress. The total expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department in 1926 amounted to over £E. 330,000. The revenue collected through departmental agencies during 1926 amounted to £E. 15,738, the most important sources being the Port Sudan water supply (£E. 9,259) and the Kordofan water supply schemes, including El Obeid (£E. 5,452).

Maintenance.

464. The upkeep and maintenance of Government buildings was carried out at a cost of £E. 41,820. Of this sum £E. 14,900 was expended on the upkeep and maintenance of buildings belonging to the Sudan Defence Force, the responsibility for which, prior to 1925, would have devolved on the Military Works Department of the Egyptian army.

New Buildings.

465. The new civil hospital at Omdurman and the barracks for British troops, reference to which was made in the report for 1925, were brought to satisfactory completion. Many other buildings were

started and finally completed within the year under review, including nineteen houses for British officials in Khartum, four quarters for British officials at Wad Medani, two quarters for British officials and a number of quarters for native officials at the Gezira Research Farm; also sundry buildings at Malakal, Kassala, Aroma, Tokar and Fasher. A commencement has been made with the new general post office for Khartum, the cost of which is estimated at £E. 41,150. A new hospital for the British troops in Khartum has also been put in hand; it will have accommodation for seventy beds and is estimated to cost £E. 27,000.

Water Supplies.

466. The necessity for increasing the Port Sudan water supply, adumbrated in the report for 1925, was emphasised during the early part of the year under review, and it was decided to proceed with the duplication of the pipe-line. Preliminary works in connection with this were put in hand, but, owing to delays in the supply of imported materials consequent upon the strikes in England, no actual pipe laying had been commenced before the end of the year. The cost of this duplication is estimated at £E. 42,669. It was also decided to build an underground storage reservoir in Port Sudan and to improve the distribution system at a further cost of £E. 15,512.

467. A scheme was evolved for the water supply of Tokar and provision is made for pumping water from deep wells at Krimbit, 12 miles south of Tokar, and from thence into an elevated tank in the town itself, from which the water will be distributed. The cost of the Tokar water supply scheme is estimated at £E. 25,700, and by the end of the year all arrangements had been made for quickly bringing it to completion.

468. In Kordofan further bores have been sunk, and these have been equipped with the necessary pumping machinery. The increasing degree to which the local inhabitants have recourse to these isolated water supply installations, and the fact that they are perfectly willing to pay for the water supplied to them, is an encouragement to continue with these schemes. In El Obeid itself six more bores have been sunk, and the quantity of subterranean water now proved to be available is considered to justify the installation of a proper distribution system.

Roads.

469. The survey of the Rejaf–Nimule Road made in 1925 was found to be lacking in sufficient detail to enable a firm estimate of cost to be prepared. An experienced road engineer has since been appointed and he is now engaged in making detailed plans and estimates. If it is decided to make this an "all-weather" road, a considerable amount of heavy bridging will be necessary; the bridging of the Kit and Assua Rivers will in each case require four spans of 100 feet, and, in addition, there are other big rivers to cross. This road is an important link in the transport communications of

tropical Africa, connecting as it does the steamer system of the Sudan Railway and Steamer Administration with that of Kenya and Uganda. There is no other heavy road work in contemplation at the moment, but it is easy to see that the growth of mechanical transport will necessitate the permanent bridging and culverting of many of the existing transport roads.

APPENDICES.

Appendix (I).

Table 1.—General Survey of Financial Position.

——	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927 Budget.
Revenue.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Receipts other than railway receipts	1,874,076	2,050,606	2,435,129	2,394,733	2,288,777	2,175,900
Gezira receipts	..	..	..	..	703,212	698,100
Railway receipts	1,624,519	1,715,527	1,863,727	1,909,650	2,115,999	2,036,000
	3,498,595	3,766,133	4,298,856	4,304,383	5,107,988	4,910,000
Contribution from Egyptian Government	..	..	..	562,500	750,000	750,000
Total revenue ..	3,498,595	3,766,133	4,298,856	4,866,883	5,857,988	5,660,000
Expenditure.						
(A.) Normal administrative expenditure (excluding war bonus and assisted passage for railway personnel)	2,193,115	2,037,527	2,017,130	2,021,176	2,169,449	2,399,276
(B.) Railways and steamers current expenditure (including war bonus and assisted passages)	1,250,889	991,127	925,841	980,931	1,082,727	1,215,870
(C.) Provision for special items :—						
I. Railways—						
(*a.*) Relaying and renewals	50,000	260,000	260,005	260,000	260,550	299,360
(*b.*) Capital Improvements, Funds, &c.	..	..	..	130,000	218,047	..
(*c.*) Pensions and gratuities (including London Office Indemnity Scheme)	..	..	..	50,816	50,256	58,040
(*d.*) Railway loans ..	..	26,655	41,937	100,074	102,469	124,669
Total (C) I ..	50,000	286,655	301,942	540,890	631,322	482,069
II. General loan charges ..	2,995	5,083	6,360	7,193	571,477	587,447
III. Allotments to Special Gezira Reserve	..	72,078	202,000	152,000	50,000	..
IV. Gezira scheme, rent of lands	..	..	..	..	30,602	30,355
V. Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	*40,000	..
Total special items ..	52,995	363,816	510,302	700,083	1,323,401	1,099,871
(D.) Irrigation Department	..	..	..	..	116,846	141,123
(E.) Military expenditure	..	..	..	†673,480	789,965	803,860
Total expenditure ..	3,496,999	3,392,470	3,453,273	4,375,670	5,482,388	5,660,000

* Special provision for losses on Dura account. † Ten months only.

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927 Budget.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
(F.) – .) Surplus of revenue over expenditure transferred to General Reserve Fund	1,596	373,663	845,583	491,213	375,600	..
(*b.*) Direct credits in General Reserve Fund	53,220	66,291	23,034	84,912	87,006	..
Total (F) (*a*) and (*b*) ..	54,816	439,954	868,617	576,125	462,606	..
(G.) Allotments from General Reserve Fund for non-recurrent expenditure for the succeeding year (*less* amounts since cancelled)	295,467	229,478	511,274	688,469	525,646	..
(H.) Net decrease or increase in unallotted balance of General Reserve (difference between (F) and (G).	– 240,651	+ 210,476	+ 357,343	– 112,344	– 63,040	..

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCES FOR 1925 AND 1926.

Receipts.

——	1925.		1926.	
Provinces—	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Land tax—				
(*a.*) Taxed land	38,809		38,344	
(*b.*) Ushur	138,985		92,535	
Date tax	23,753		25,843	
Animal tax	205,301		165,605	
Tribute from nomad tribes ...	37,878		34,432	
Traders' tax	35,197		37,261	
Royalties on gum, ivory, &c. ...	157,764		180,079	
Timber and firewood	66,997		46,915	
Rent from Government land and properties	151,820		66,911	
Miscellaneous	144,538		156,243	
		1,001,042		844,168
Departments and Services—				
Customs Department ...	547,392		555,016	
Posts and Telegraphs Department	133,538		142,206	
Railways and Steamers Department...	1,909,650		2,115,999	
Agriculture and Forests Department...	77,534		109,260	
Veterinary Department ...	11,662		8,720	
Legal Department	22,590		23,006	
General Central Service ...	460,843		517,560	
Irrigation Department ...	...		703,212	
Other Departments and Services	140,132		88,842	
Contribution from Egyptian Government	562,500		750,000	
		3,865,841		5,013,821
Total	...	4,866,883	...	5,857,989

Expenditure.

—	1925.		1926.	
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Provinces	...	745,350	...	819,508
Departments and Services—				
Governor-General's Office and Council	24,094		21,179	
Civil Secretary's Office ...	18,270		28,435	
Stores and Supplies... ...	13,876		25,167	
Prisons	24,584		...	
Game Preservation	3,226		4,293	
Sudan Agent's Office ...	9,164		9,246	
Intelligence Department ...	24,745		21,170	
Legal Department	90,929		92,627	
Auditor-General's Department	6,743		7,058	
Financial Secretary's Office ...	62,313		59,164	
Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board	6,352		7,369	
Customs Department ...	37,138		38,776	
General Central Services ...	333,272		281,399	
Education Department ...	90,250		105,213	
Agriculture and Forests ...	109,363		150,388	
Survey Department... ...	30,474		33,773	
Medical Service	109,294		147,006	
Veterinary Department ...	41,098		41,907	
Public Works Department ...	152,808		107,399	
Posts and Telegraphs ...	180,397		187,960	
Railways and Steamers ...	1,521,821		1,714,049	
		2,890,211		3,083,578
Passage allowances and transport facilities	...	69,379	...	70,412
Irrigation Department ...	...	...	...	718,925
Sudan Defence Force	...	670,730	...	789,965
Total	...	4,375,670	...	5,482,388

Appendix (II).

Reserve Fund Situation, 1926–27.

		£E.	£E.
Unallotted Balance as shown in Report for 1925 (Cmd. 2742) ...			621,438
Add—			
By adjustment on closure of 1925 accounts			54,515
Total available for allotment			675,953
Vote No.	*Subsequent Votes in* 1926.	£E.	
521.	Atbara ginning factory extension	12,000	
522.	Road and well sinking programme, Nuba Mountains Province	2,100	
511.	Torit ginning factory (supplementary vote) ...	2,336	
523.	Wireless, telegraph, telephone and other services ...	27,927	
524.	Geteina River Land and Kawa Merkaz Land settlement	7,600	
525.	Well-boring programme, 1926–27, in Kordofan Province	13,669	
526.—(*a.*)	Nuba Mountains Province, mechanical transport ... ... £E. 15,600		
	(*b.*) Workshop extension at Khartum North, and erection of a petrol shed presumably in Nuba Mountains Province 2,500		
		18,100	
527.	Grant in 1926 to Imperial College on Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad	500	
512.	Kadugli ginning factory (supplementary vote) ...	3,000	
517.	Talodi ginning factory (supplementary vote) ...	3,000	
518.	Yei ginning factory (supplementary vote)... ...	3,000	
528.	Capital expenditure for the installation of a pumping scheme at Kulud, Dongola	26,000	
499.	Makwar ginning factory (further supplementary vote)	3,640	
513.	Supplementary vote for Port Sudan water supply (increase of head-work and duplication of main)	669	
529.	Shambat Central Research Farm Building proposals	2,400	
530.	Preliminary grant to Berber Province for digging wells and deepening hafirs during 1926-27 season	500	
502.	Shendi Seluka Land Settlement (supplementary vote)	868	
531.	Additional buildings and equipment at Omdurman Technical School	5,760	
509.	Khartum Post Office Building (additional vote) ...	6,150	
532.	Survey Sudan–Uganda Road connections... ...	1,575	
533.	Khartum–Kisumu aerial survey	1,950	
534.	Supplementary grant towards the cost of the International Sleeping Sickness Commission ...	73	
			142,817
Unallotted balance on December 31, 1926 ...			533,136
1.	Interest at 4 per cent. on unexpended balance on June 30, 1926—£E. 1,335,695	53,428	
2.	Proceeds of sale of lands	8,351	
3.	Unclaimed deposits	3,343	
4.	Receipts from British Empire Exhibition ...	777	
5.	Various minor receipts	5,187	
6.	Cancelled credits	16,885	
7.	Mechanical Transport, Sudan Defence Force ...	15,920	
8.	Provisional estimate of Budget Surplus, 1926 ...	375,600	
			479,491
Total estimated sum available for allotment ...			1,012,627

Reserve Fund Situation, 1926–27—(*continued*).

Votes in 1927.

Vote No.	*Votes already approved.*	£E.	£E.
536.	Steel shelving and cement rendering of floors in Stores Nos. 2, 3 and 9	1,588	
537.	Mechanical transport for Provinces and Departments	2,000	
		£E.	
538.	Telephone extensions	6,500	
	El Obeid–Kadugli–Talodi telegraph line (supplementary vote)	1,375	
	Port Sudan underground cable (supplementary vote)	112	
			7,987
539.	Rejaf–Aba Road (supplementary vote)		2,500
540.	Water development scheme, Berber		500
541.	Grant towards the cost of construction of new Mosque at Fasher		900
542.	Reserve against loss on Government dura account		33,568
543.	Accommodation of British troops...		27,802
544.	Cost of 3,000 ordinary shares in Sudan Light and Power Company		2,925
545.	Grant to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad		500
546.	Reserve against loss on rain-grown cotton account:—	£E.	
	(*a.*) 1924–25 and 1925–26 seasons ...	23,593	
	(*b.*) 1926–27 season	30,000	
			53,593
547.	El Obeid water distribution scheme		6,200
548.	Gezira Irrigation Extension		100,000
549.	Grant for Wad Medani and Makwar Mosques ...		1,500
550.	Contingencies and various minor services... ...		30,000
551.	Swimming bath, loan to Sudan Club		2,400
552.	Suakin quarantine		16,000
553.	Renewals Fund, Posts and Telegraphs Department		6,000
548.	Gezira Irrigation Extension (supplementary vote)...		9,174
			305,137
	Balance		707,490
	Other demands provisionally approved, but subject to further detailed examination		220,509
	Unallotted balance		486,981

Appendix (III).

Sudan Loans.

(A.) The following loans have been raised by the Sudan Government :—

1. £6,380,000 sterling 5½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds, being the amount required (at the respective issue prices of the two issues referred to below) to raise £6 million sterling.

Of these, £3,500,000 sterling were issued in October 1919 at 95½ per cent., and the balance (£2,880,000 sterling) in February 1921 at 92. The interest on these bonds is guaranteed by the Imperial Government under the authority of "The Government of the Sudan Loan Act, 1919." The bonds are bearer bonds redeemable at £105 sterling by annual drawings during the period 1929–59, the Sudan Government reserving the right, on giving three months' notice to the public, to redeem at £105 sterling at any time on or after the 1st November, 1939, any outstanding balance of the Loan. The bonds are an investment authorised by "The Trustees Act, 1893," and are secured on the general revenues and assets of the Sudan with priority over subsequent charges. Interest is payable half-yearly on the 1st May and the 1st November.

Out of the proceeds of the above issues, a sum of £700,000 sterling was reserved to meet expenditure on the Sudan Government Railways, and £400,000 sterling was advanced to the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, for buildings, &c., to be constructed in connection with the Gezira scheme. The balance was applied to expenditure on the dam at Makwar and canalisation of the Gezira plain.

2. £3,763,400 sterling 4½ per cent. Guaranteed Stock, being the amount (at the original issue price of 93) sufficient to raise a sum of £3,500,000 sterling. £3,250,000 sterling was issued in January 1923 at 93, and the balance, £513,400, was sold in May 1924 at 95½. The proceeds of this loan have also been applied to the above-mentioned irrigation works. Both the principal and interest of this stock are guaranteed by the Imperial Government under the authority of "The Trade Facilities and Loans Guarantee Act, 1922." The stock is redeemable over the years 1939 to 1973 by means of a cumulative sinking fund to be applied in the purchase of stock at or under par, or in the redemption at par of stock, is an investment authorised by "The Trustees Act, 1893," and is secured upon the general revenues and assets of the Sudan Government, with priority over any charges thereon not existing on the 14th May, 1922. Interest is payable half-yearly on the 1st February and the 1st August.

3. Four per cent. Guaranteed Stock. Issued £1,500,000 sterling. This was issued in November 1924 at 86, and forms part of a total authorised issue of an amount sufficient, together with the proceeds of the above 4½ per cent. loan, to raise a total amount of £7,000,000 to complete the expenditure upon the above-mentioned

works. The payment of the principal and interest of the stock is guaranteed by the Imperial Government under the authority of "The Trade Facilities Act, 1924." The stock is secured upon the general revenues and assets of the Government of the Sudan with priority over any charges thereon not existing on the 14th May, 1922, except those in respect of the existing £3,763,400, Sudan Government 4½ per cent. Guaranteed Stock, 1939–73, with which it ranks *pari passu*.

The stock is redeemable over the years 1950 to 1974 by means of a cumulative sinking fund to be applied in the purchase of stock at or under par or in the redemption at par of stock selected in sums of £100 sterling by drawings. Interest is payable half-yearly on the 10th May and 10th November.

The above loans have been issued mainly for the purpose of financing the Gezira irrigation project.

The position as regards expenditure on these projects on the 31st December, 1926, may be summarised as follows :—

Date of Issue.	Issued.	Price of Issue.	Net Proceeds.
	£ sterling.		£ sterling.
October 1919...	3,500,000	5½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds, 95½ per cent.	3,342,500
February 1921	2,880,000	5½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds, 92 per cent....	2,649,600
January 1923	3,250,000	4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, 93 per cent....	3,022,500
May 1924 ...	513,400	4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, 95½ per cent.	489,012
November 1924	1,500,000	4 per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, 86 per cent.	1,290,000
			10,793,612
	Sudan Government current account balance ...		1,360,394
			12,155,006

Application of expenditure:—		£ sterling.
Sudan Government railways extension		700,000
Loan to Sudan Plantations Syndicate		400,000
Cost of issue, advertisements and stamp duty on:—		
	£	
5½ per Cent. Loan	192,210	
4½ per Cent. Loan	46,155	
4 per Cent. Loan	21,289	
		259,654
Gezira irrigation project:—		
Expenditure to the 31st December, 1926, Sennar dam and canalisation, other Government services, and interest ...		10,794,352
		12,154,006

(B.) The Sudan Government is responsible for the service of the Debenture Stock issues mentioned below which have been made by construction companies in which the Government is the sole shareholder.

1. *Kassala Railway Company (Ltd.).*

Formed for the construction of a branch line from Haiya Junction on the Port Sudan–Atbara Railway to Kassala. This line is operated under a working agreement by the Sudan Government Railways Department as part of its system.

Ordinary share capital :—

Authorised ... £300,000 in £1 shares.
Issued ... 300,000 shares fully paid.

These shares were subscribed for by the Kassala Cotton Company, Ltd., and transferred to the Sudan Government as part of the consideration for the company's concession.

4½ per cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock (1934–53) :—

Principal and interest guaranteed by His Majesty's Government under "The Trade Facilities Act, 1921."

Authorised ... £1,500,000.
Issued ... £1,290,000 in January 1923 at 93.
£150,000 in January 1927 at 91.

Expenditure on the construction and equipment of the Kassala Railway is estimated to work out at £1,050,000. The balance of the funds raised is to be utilised for "General Railway Purposes." The position is as shown below :—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
(1.) Proceeds of 1st issue, £1,290,000 at 93 ...	1,199,700 0 0	
Less cost of issue ...	25,995 5 3	
		1,173,704 14 9
(2.) Proceeds of 2nd issue, £150,000 at 91	136,500 0 0	
Less cost of issue ...	683 10 0	
		135,816 10 0
(3.) Total net proceeds		1,309,521 4 9
(4.) Estimated capital expenditure on Kassala line on loan account		1,050,000 0 0
(5.) Estimated net balance available for general railway purposes		259,521 4 9

2. *Sudan Construction and Equipment Company, Ltd.*

Formed for the following purposes :—

(*a.*) Purchase of railway rolling-stock for the Sudan Government Railways to provide for increased traffic on the inauguration of the Gezira irrigation scheme.

(*b.*) Extension of quays and provision of equipment at Port Sudan.

(*c.*) Construction of water works for Port Sudan.

The assets are leased to the Sudan Government under a hire purchase agreement which provides for the necessary payments to meet interest and sinking fund payments on the company's debenture stock.

Ordinary share capital :—

Authorised ... £10 in shares of £1 each.
Issued ... 10 shares fully paid.

4½ per cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock (1931–45) :—

Principal and interest guaranteed by His Majesty's Government under "The Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–24."

Authorised ... £540,000.
Issued ... £540,000 at 96½ in February 1925.

3. *The Gedaref Railway and Development Company (Ltd.).*

This company was formed in November 1926 for the following purposes, *inter alia* :—

(*a.*) The construction, equipment and operation in the Sudan of a railway line of about 135 miles in length from the present railhead at Kassala to Gedaref.

(*b.*) The construction of further railways and the provision of plant and material for railways, ginning factories, pumping installations, and also in connection with the extension of irrigation works in the Gezira and various other development projects of the Sudan Government.

The assets are to be leased to the Sudan Government under a hire purchase agreement which provides for the necessary payments to meet interest and sinking fund instalments on the Company's D benture Stock.

Ordinary share capital :—

Authorised ... £100 in shares of £1 each.
Issued ... 100 shares fully paid.

5 per cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock (1932–62) :—

Principal and interest guaranteed by His Majesty's Government under "The Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–26."

Authorised ... £2,160,000.
Issued ... 2,160,000 at 100½ in February 1927.

(C.) The Sudan Government is also interested in the company mentioned below and has guaranteed the service of its Debenture Stock.

4. *The Sudan Light and Power Company (Ltd.).*

This company was formed in 1925 to take over and manage, on behalf of the Sudan Government, the existing water works, electricity and ice supply works and steam tramway and ferries in Khartum, Khartum North and Omdurman, to undertake extension

of the above, to build a bridge between Khartum and Omdurman and to electrify the tramway system. The whole of the existing undertakings, together with all improvements, extensions or new works specified above, remain the property of the Sudan Government, while the company is entitled, during the period of the agreement, which is for thirty years, to a share of the net profit on working after providing for the service of the debentures. The company, as part of its agreement, had to provide the necessary capital by making the issues referred to below :—

Ordinary share capital :—

Authorised ... 356,000 shares of £1 each, £356,000.

Issued—	£	*s.*	*d.*
3,507 shares fully paid	3,507	0	0
50,000 ,, 1*s.* paid up	2,500	0	0
299,493 ,, 10*s.* ,, ,, ...	149,746	10	0
353,000	155,753	10	0

5 per Cent. Guaranteed Mortgage Debenture Stock (1931–55) :—

Principal and interest guaranteed by His Majesty's Government under "The Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–25."

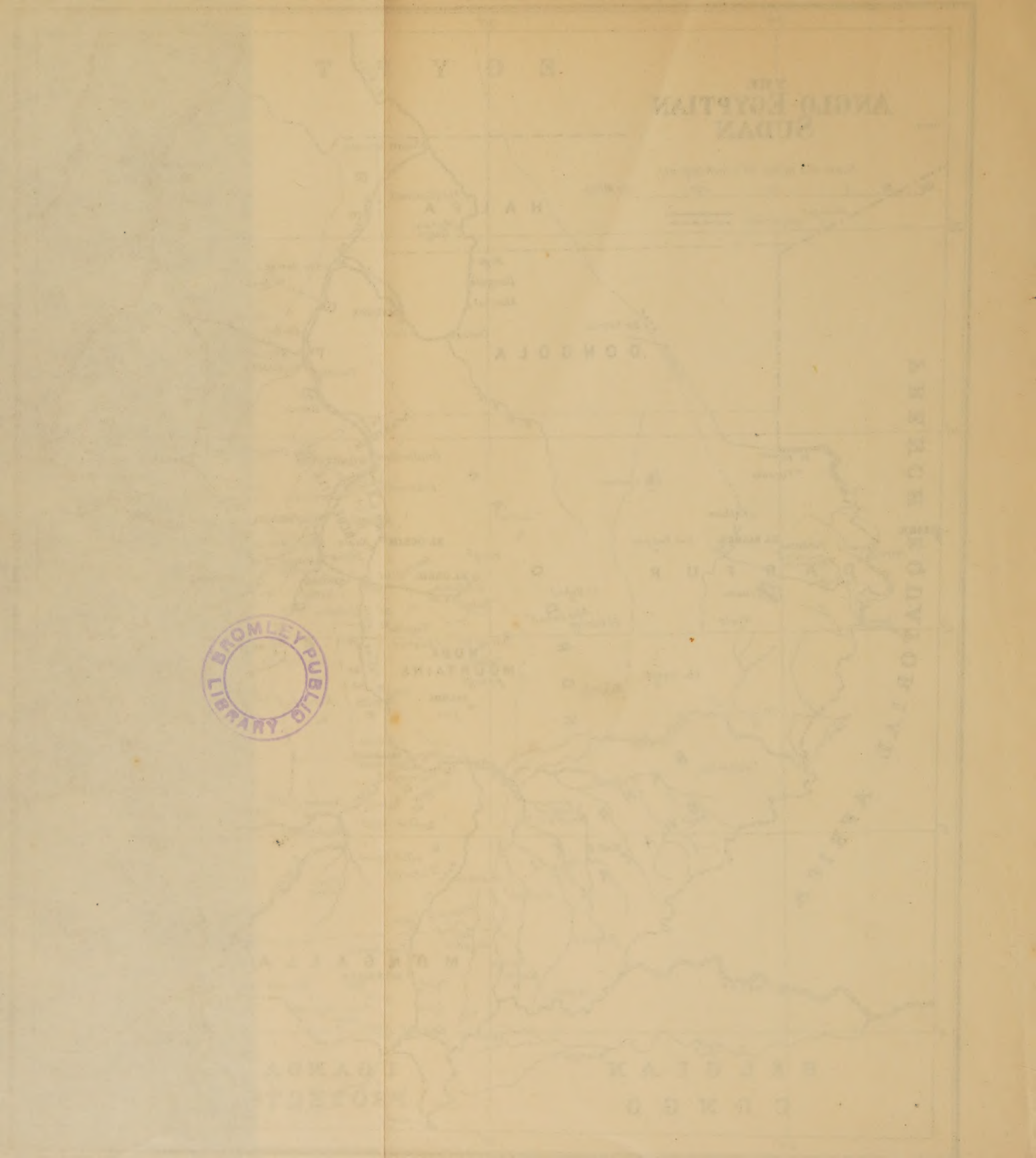
Authorised ... £400,000.
Issued ... £400,000 on the 1st July, 1925, at 97.

SUDAN LOANS.—*Summary of Position.*

——	Description.	Extent of Guarantee by His Majesty's Government.	Date of Issue.	Nominal Amount.	Issue Price.	Net Proceeds.	Dividends Due.
				£		£	
(A.) Sudan Government Loans	1. 5½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds, 1929–59	Interest	October 1919 ...	3,500,000	95½	3,342,500	1st May, 1st November.
	2. Ditto, ditto	Interest ...	February 1921	2,880,000	92	2,649,600	
	3. 4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, 1939–73	Principal and Interest	January 1923	3,250,000	93	3,022,500	1st February, 1st August.
	4. Ditto, ditto	Ditto	May 1924	513,400	95½	489,012	
	5. 4 per Cent. Guaranteed Stock, 1950–74	Ditto ...	November 1924	1,500,000	86	1,290,000	10th May, 10th November
(B.) Loans of construction companies in which the Sudan Government is the sole shareholder and for the service of which the Sudan Government is responsible							
1. Kassala Railway Company (Limited). Shares, £1 each, authorised and fully paid up, £300,000. Sudan Government sole shareholder. Interest payable out of proceeds Debenture Stock to 31st December, 1925	4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock, 1934–53	Principal and Interest (Trade Facilities Act, 1921)	January 1923	1,290,000	93	1,199,700	1st February, 1st August.
Ditto, ditto	Ditto	Ditto	January 1927	150,000	91	136,500	
2. Sudan Construction and Equipment Company (Limited). Shares, £1 each, authorised, issued and fully paid up, £10. Sudan Government sole shareholder. Interest payable out of proceeds Debenture Stock to 31st December, 1926.	4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock, 1931–45	Principal and Interest (Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–24)	February 1925	540,000	96½	521,100	1st February, 1st August.

3. Gedaref Railway and Development Company (Limited). Shares, £1 each, authorised, issued and fully paid up, £100. Sudan Government sole shareholder The Sudan Government is also interested in the undermentioned company and has guaranteed the Debenture issue shown	5 per Cent. Guaranteed Debenture Stock, 1932–62	Principal and Interest (Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–26)	February 1927	2,160,000	100½	2,170,800	1st March, 1st September.
4. Sudan Light and Power Company (Limited). Nominal Share capital (£1 shares), £356,000. Shares issued, £350,000. Paid up: £1 on 3,507 shares; 1*s.* on 50,000 shares; 10*s.* on 299,493 shares. Interest payable out of proceeds Debenture Stock to 30th June, 1928	5 per Cent. Guaranteed Mortgage Debenture Stock, 1931–55	Principal and Interest (Trade Facilities Acts, 1921–25) and also by Sudan Government	1st July, 1925 (Taken up by Prudential Assurance Company)	400,000 Proceeds paid in to Sudan Light and Power Company's account with Overseas Bank (Limited)	97	—	1st January, 1st July.

THE
ANGLO-EGYPTIAN
SUDAN
Scale 173 miles to 1 inch (approx)
100 50 0 100 200 300 Miles
Railways
" projected
EGYPT
RED SEA
WADI HALFA
HALFA
DONGOLA
BERBER
KASSALA
ERITREA
ABYSSINIA
FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA
DARFUR
KORDOFAN
BAHR EL GHAZAL
NUBA MOUNTAINS
FUNG
MONGALLA
BELGIAN CONGO
UGANDA PROTECTE
KENYA COLONY
Halaib
Dongonab
Mohammed Gul
Abri (Sukkot)
(Mahas)
Delgo
Argo
Dongola
Khandaka
Abu Hamed
Port Sudan
Suakin
Sinkat
Toka
Haiya
Akik
Karora
Musmar
Berber
Atbara
Zeidab
El Damer
Derudeb
Tamerein
Debba
Korti
Merowe
Bir Natrun
Shendi
Omdurman
Khartoum
Abu Deleig
Keren
Massawa
Asmara
Kassala
W. Howar
Furawia
J. Meidob
El Geteina
Rufa'a
Khashm el Girba
Kuttum
Soderi
Managil
Wad Medani
Abdulla
Mafaza
Gedaref
Abeshr
El Fasher
Um Kedada
El Dueim
Kawa
Sennar
Gallabat
Adrelo
Geneina
Kebkebia
Kereinik
Zalingei
Bara
Tendelti
Singa
Karko
El Obeid
Um Ruaba
J. Marra
El Nahud
Rahad
Abu Zabad
El Odaiya
Jebelein
Nyala
Azum
Tagalle
Rashad
Renk
Roseires
L. Tsana
Dilling
Delami
Heiban
Kadugli
Darfung
Dangila
Abu Gabra
Muglad
Talodi
Eliri
Kaka
Melut
Kurmuk
Goz Dango
Bahr el Arab
Kafiakingi
Kodok
Tonga
Malakal
Sobat Mouth
Atar
Abwong
Fangak
Awell
Nyerol
Nasser
Kigille
Addis Ababa
Gambeila
Gogrial
Meshra el Rek
Raga
Duk Ayod
Akobo Post
Gorei
Wau
Duk Faywil
Kongor
Shambe
Rumbek
Pibor Post
Maji
Yirrol
Bor
Tembura
Tali Amadi
Terrakekkka
Mongalla
Torit
Rejaf
Idali
Lyria
Kapoeta
Nagichot
Ikoto
Loka
Yei
Kajo Kaji
Opari
Yambio
Meridi
Aba
Niangara
L. Rudolf
L. Albert
R. Nile
White Nile
Blue Nile
Atbara
W. el Melek
W. Howar
W. Amur
Sobat
Pibor
Akobo
R. Mbomu
R. Welle
Survey Dept Khartoum Nov 1920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